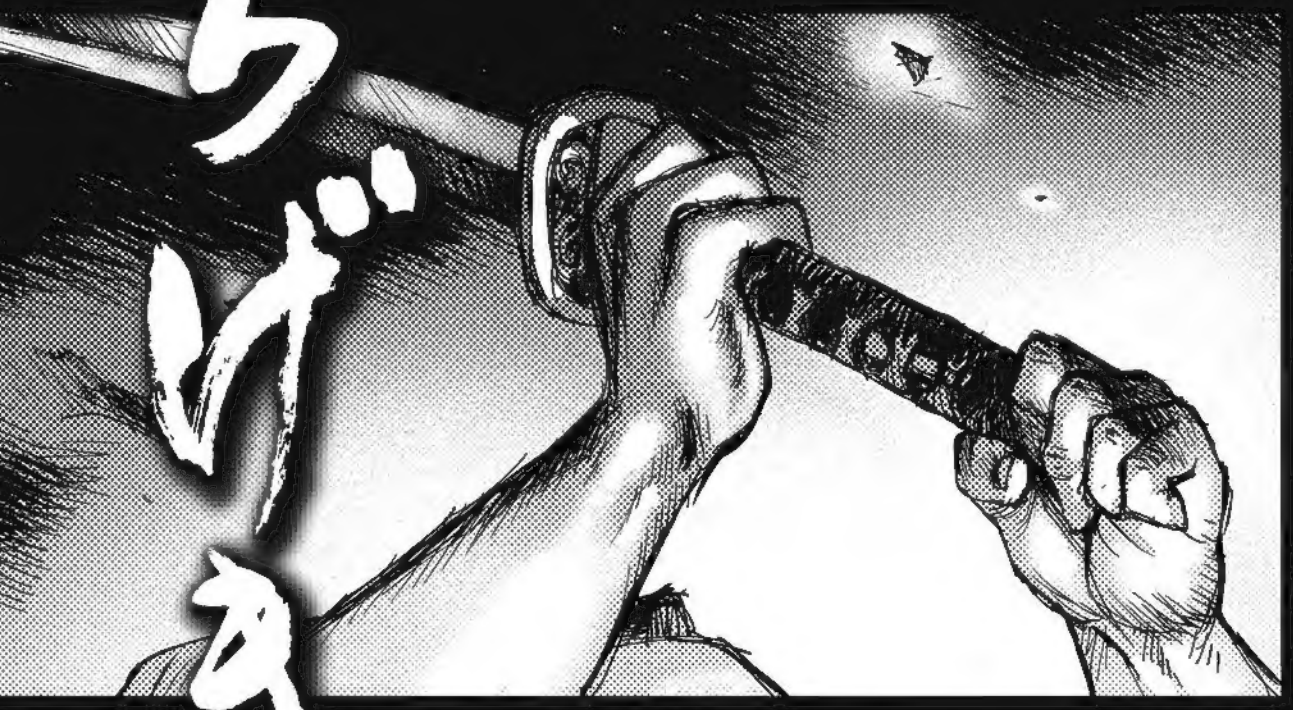
いちげき 2

松本次郎

原作・永井義男

いちげき



松本次郎

原作・永井義男

2

一撃必殺隊



伊牟田
御用盗を取り仕切る薩摩藩士の一人。



前之助
薩摩藩士。伊牟田に可愛がられていた。



お園
井村屋の女郎の一人。

米吉
鹿骨村出身。丑五郎の弟分で並々ならぬ巨軀の持ち主。大食漢。

千代松
伊興村出身。

梅吉
上谷塚村出身。

和三郎
大谷原村出身。

新平
花又村出身。

市造
上小岩村出身。侍への憧れが人一倍強い。丑五郎とは犬猿の仲。

源治
小合新田出身。

仙太
戸ケ崎村出身。初陣で奮闘するも伊牟田の剛剣に倒れる。

丑五郎
東一之江村出身。小柄な体から抜群の身体能力を誇り、頭の回転も速い。



亨吉
一撃必殺隊隊士の世話をする下男。



勝海舟
旗本。百姓を組織化することを発案した。



和田六郎
元新選組隊士。島田とともに隊士を鍛える。



島田幸之介
元新選組隊士。一撃必殺隊の訓練を担当する。

これまでのあらすじ

時は幕末――大政奉還後、江戸幕府との武力決着を望む薩摩藩は幕府を挑発すべく「御用盗」なる武装集団を結成、「攘夷の資金集め」を名目に江戸の商家を襲わせていた。薩摩藩と幕府の大規模な武力衝突を避けるべく、勝海舟は「対御用盗」特殊戦闘部隊「一撃必殺隊」の戦闘員を農村の力自慢から選抜する。刀の握り方もしらない若者たちだったが、その比類無き身体能力と新選組仕込みの実戦剣術により、めきめきと実力をつけていく。そして初陣の夜、一撃必殺隊の面々は自慢の剛剣により御用盗を次々と斬り倒していったが……!?

いちご戦争 2

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月刊「コミック乱」連載作品

CHAPTER 6 CASUALTIES

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DODGE A BLADE!

FUCK!

MAYBE IF I STAY STILL,

IT WON'T HURT THAT MUCH...

SFX:
Clang!
Woosh

HMM...

SHI...

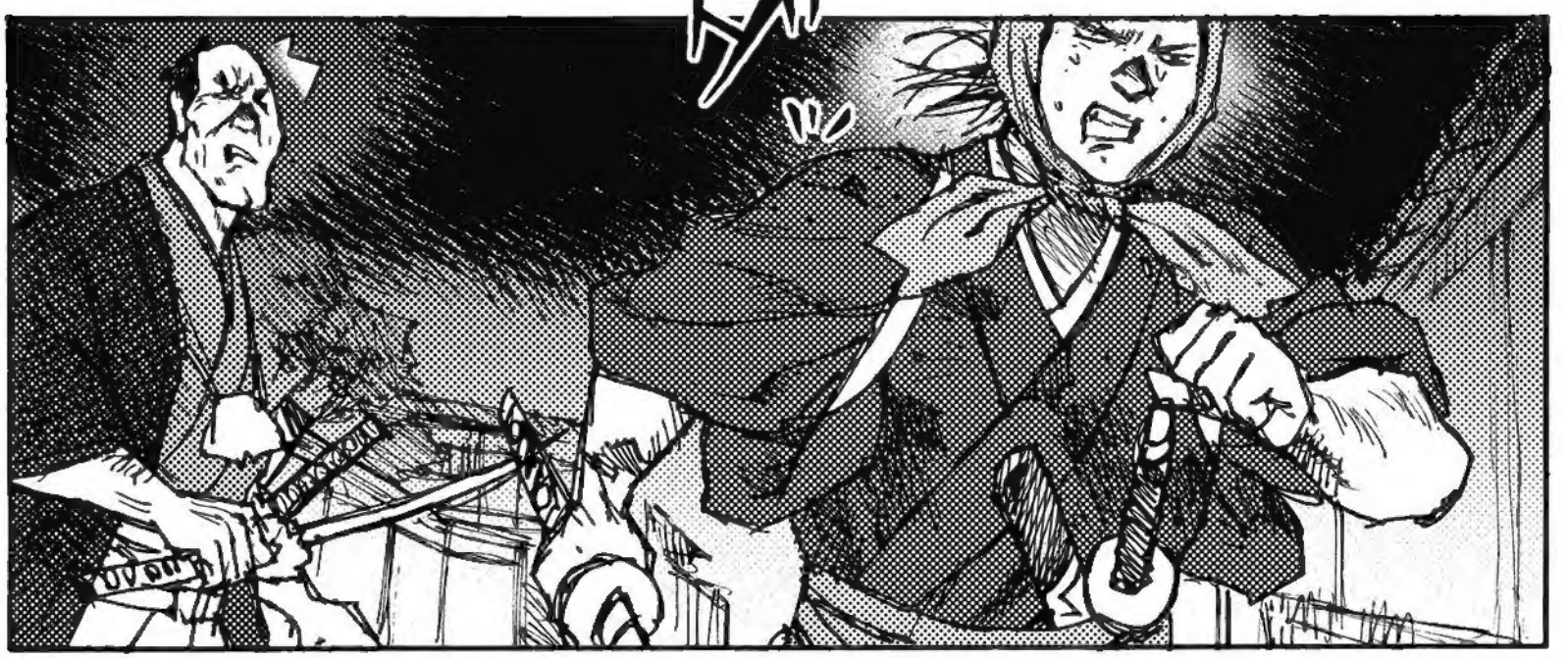
SHIMA-SAMA!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT?!

GET LOST ALREADY!

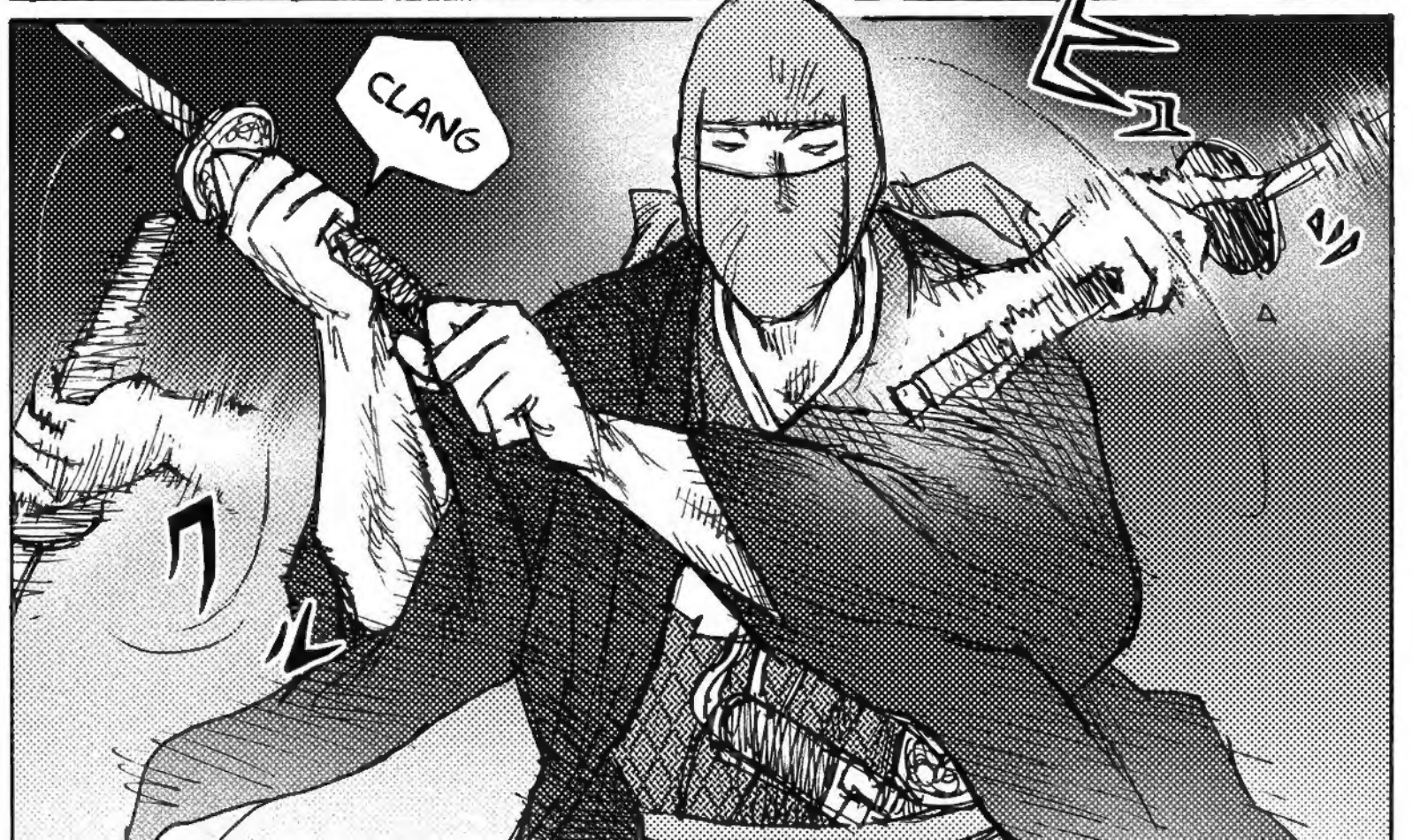
A...

AYE!






YOU BASTARD! YOU AREN'T RUNNING AW-


CLANG

GOING BACK?

SFX: Charging

SFX:
Grab

SFX:
Whoosh!

!

SFX: Slice, whang!

DOSSEI!

!

.....

MUDA-DONO...

DAMN!

WE MUST ALSO ALERT SAGARA-SAMA.

WE SHOULD RETREAT BACK TO THE SHIBA RESIDENCE.

PANT

PANT

PANT

PANT

PANT

PANT

PANT

PANT

PANT

SFX: Throwing up.

GUEEH.

OEH...

SFX: Splashing, rubbing

FUUH.

CHING

RUSTLE

I MEAN... I-IT'S U-USHI...

USHI!

WHO...

WHO'S THERE?!

YOU SCARED THE SHIT OUT OF ME.

OH, IT'S YOU...

YOU MADE IT OUT ALIVE, USHI?

OH!

ICHI HERE!

!

I HOPE THEY DIDN'T KICK THE BUCKET.

DUNNO.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS?

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

MY BLADE IS BENT. I CAN'T SHEATHE IT.

THEY MIGHT HAVE GONE THERE.

WELL, WE HAVE OTHER RENDEZVOUS PLACES AS WELL...

I CAN'T MOVE ANYMORE!

WE CAN'T DO THAT!

WE WAIT A BIT LONGER AND IF NOBODY COMES, WE GO BACK TO THE RESIDENCE.

I'M GONNA DIE...

YONEKICHI!

I'M STARVING TO DEATH!

WHAT?!

PULL YOURSELF TOGETH-ER!

BRO, I'M ABOUT TO DIE.

WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU INJURED?

HOW MANY DID YOU KILL?

ANYWAY, USHI.

HA HAHA.

YOU IDIOT! STOP WOR-RYING ME!

OWW!

I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO COUNT!

TELL ME HOW MANY YOU'VE KILLED!

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I CUT AT LEAST SIX MEN DOWN.

BOTH OF YOU ARE AMAZING.

BEATS ME!

YOU MIGHT HAVE DRAWN FIRST BLOOD, BUT I KILLED MOST OF THEM!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, YONEKICHI.

GUESS I'M NOT CUT OUT TO BE A SAMURAI.

I PISSED MYSELF...

I WAS SO SCARED...

IT'S PRETTY MUCH THE SAME.

I WAS PUKING EARLIER AS WELL.

WHY?

BUT YEAH. IT REALLY SMELLS LIKE SHIT.

SHIT? I PUKED. I DIDN'T TAKE A DUMP.

BUT SOMETHING SMELLS LIKE SHIT...

I JUST STRAINED MYSELF TOO MUCH THAT I POOPED A LITTLE...

SFX: Rmphf

WELL...

I WAS BY NO MEANS SCARED...

SHUT UP! I MIGHT HAVE SHAT MYSELF A LITTLE, BUT I KILLED SIX PEOPLE!

FROM THIS DAY ON, YOU'RE THE SHIT SAMURAI! SHIT SAMURAI! SHIT SAMURAI! SHIT SAMURAI!

HEY, DID YOU HEAR THAT?! THIS ASSHOLE TOTALLY SHIT HIMSELF!

バリ

バリ

バリ

WE GOT THE REPORT FROM OUR SPY!

SFX: Banner flapping.

THE SATSUMA HAVE LOST OVER 20 MEN! THOSE WHO WERE SEVERELY WOUNDED SHOULD DIE IN TWO OR THREE DAYS AS WELL! THIS UNIT HAS HALVED THE NUMBERS OF THE SATSUMA WARRIORS WITH JUST NINE MEN!

IT WAS AN OVERWHELMING VICTORY!

AN OVER-WHELMING VICTORY?

WHAT ELSE COULD THESE RESULTS BE BUT

A SINGLE LOSS!

AND WE MERELY HAVE

WADA-DONO, MAY I?

.....?

SFX: Hmm.

IT WAS SENTA.

AS YOU'RE ALREADY AWARE OF THIS, WE HAD A CASUALTY ON THIS MISSION.

AS THE CAPTAIN OF THIS UNIT, I'M VERY PROUD OF HIM.

EVEN THOUGH SENTA WAS THE MOST TIMID PERSON IN THIS UNIT, HE FOUGHT BRAVELY UNTIL THE VERY END.

BY THE TIME I ARRIVED TO HELP, HE WAS ALREADY DEAD.

FROM NOW ON, REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION, IF ANYONE DOESN'T IMMEDIATELY OBEY AN ORDER, HE SHALL BE EXECUTED FOR VIOLATING THE UNIT'S RULES!

WHEN YOU ARE ORDERED TO LEAVE, YOU HAVE TO RETREAT IMMEDIATELY! THE ORDER OF THE UNIT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SAVAGE VALOR!

LET ME BE CLEAR!

HOW-EVER!

IF HE HADN'T FAILED TO FOLLOW VICE CAPTAIN WADA'S ORDER TO RETREAT IMMEDIATELY, HE WOULD HAVE SURVIVED.

KEEP THIS IN MIND!

IF YOU WANT TO GET BACK HOME ALIVE

I'LL DROP IT AT HIS PLACE ALONG WITH THIS STUFF WHEN I GO HOME.

AS AN EXCEPTION, THEY GIVE US TWO MORE RYO. WITH THIS, SENTA'S FAMILY SHOULD HAVE IT EASY FOR A WHILE.

PR/N — RYO WAS A GOLD COIN IN MEDIEVAL JAPAN, EQUIVALENT TO A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF RICE.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT HE'D DIE IN HIS FIRST BATTLE?

THEN AGAIN, SENTA SURE WAS AN UNLUCKY BASTARD.

HE WAS PETRIFIED WITH FEAR WHEN WE TOLD HIM TO RUN.

WHAT?!

IT WAS HIS FAULT HE GOT KILLED.

UNLUCKY, YOU SAY?

CUT IT OUT ALREADY.

HEY, USHI! SENTA IS MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND!

I DON'T CARE. I AIN'T PLANNING ON GETTING MIXED UP WITH ALL THAT.

BECAUSE OF HIM, I WAS ABOUT TO GET KILLED AS WELL.

THAT'S ALL.

HE DIED BECAUSE HE WAS A MORON.

APOLOGIZE TO SENTA RIGHT NOW!

CUT IT OUT ALREADY!

USHI, YOU BASTARD! DID YOU HEAR WHAT YOU JUST SAID?!

HEH!

THUMP

BEFORE THE SATSUMA GUYS DO IT!

I'LL CUT YOU DOWN

YOU MIGHT BE SMART, BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS SAYING TOO MUCH.

BRO USHI, YOU ARE AT FAULT HERE.

AT THIS RATE, WE'LL ALL END UP DEAD!

LISTEN!

YOU GUYS JUST DON'T GET IT.

IF YOU REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKE IN THIS JOB, YOU WILL DIE.

IDIOTS REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKES BECAUSE THEY DON'T LEARN FROM THEM.

YEAH! YOU'LL MAKE IT HOME ALIVE.

AND I AIN'T PLANNING TO DIE EITHER.

D-DON'T START BASELESS RUMORS!

THAT'S WHAT SHIMADA-SAMA SAID.

BESIDES, SENTA DIED BECAUSE HE DIDN'T RETREAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SIGNAL WAS GIVEN.

IT WAS AN OVER-WHELMING VICTORY!

YOU JUST GOTTA PRACTICE ENOUGH SO YOU DON'T DIE.

WE AREN'T MAKING ANY MIS-TAKES.

HE JUST USED SENTA'S DEATH TO KEEP YOU IN LINE. DON'T GET FOOLED BY HIS CHICANERY!

DON'T GET TRICKED BY HIM!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

I SEE!

WE JUST GOTTA FOLLOW THE ORDERS TO THE LETTER. ♡

SHIMADA SAMA AND WADA SAMA DIDN'T TEACH US THAT!

HOW WOULD HE KNOW THAT?

BECAUSE HE LOCKED THE JUDGEMENT ON THE SITUATION AND COULDN'T FIGHT THE ENEMY BACK.

SEIJI DIED

SO WHAT?

WE HAVE TO PRACTICE!

SINCE THEY DIDN'T TEACH US, WE HAVE TO LEARN THAT OURSELVES.

SATSUMA DOMAIN
SHIMA RESIDENCE

チュン
チュン
チュン
チュン
チュン
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チ:

SFX: Birds chirping

SAGARA-SAMA!

WE HAVE HEAVY CASUALTIES.

THEY COWARDLY AMBUSHED US UNDER COVER OF THE NIGHT. OUR MEN DIED BEFORE THEY COULD FIGHT BACK...

W-WE BELIEVE THAT THE ENEMY HAD AT LEAST 40 MEN!

WELL, MASUMITSU-KUN?

WHY DIDN'T ANYONE WEAR ANY ARMOR?

EVEN THOUGH A GOOD CHUNK OF THE MEN WERE RONIN OR AMATEURS WITH NO FIGHTING EXPERIENCE,

EVEN IF THEY HAD WORN ARMOR, WE DON'T KNOW IF IT WOULD HAVE HELPED...

MAY I SAY SOME-THING, SAGARA-SAMA?

HMPH...

W-WE PRIORITIZED AGILITY OVER DEFENSE...

W-WELL, SIR...

WAS THE ENEMY THAT STRONG?

THEIR TECHNIQUE WAS ON PAR WITH OUR JIGENRYUU. THEY KILLED OUR MEN WITH A SINGLE STRIKE.

WE BELIEVE THEY WERE VETERAN WARRIORS WITH A LOT OF EXPERI-ENCE.

TL/N - Jigenryuu (自顕流) is an improved version of Jigenryuu (示現流), a sword technique employed by Satsuma warriors which emphasized on killing enemies with a single blow.

WITH HOW MANY PEOPLE DIED.

IN THAT REGARD, I'M FINE

...

OF A FIGHT BY THE DEAD BODIES.

YOU DON'T MEASURE THE OUT-COME

MASU-MITSU-KUN.

SIR!

WHEN THEY DO THAT, WE WILL HAVE THE LEGITIMIZATION FOR AN ARMED INTERVENTION TO OVERTHROW THE SHOGUNATE.

THUS, THE ENEMY ATTACK WAS WITHIN OUR CALCULA-TIONS.

WITH THESE TERROR ATTACKS, WE WANT TO STIMULATE THE ADVOCATES OF WAR WITHIN THE SHOGUNATE. IN A SENSE, WE WANT TO PRO-VOKE THEM TO USE FORCE.

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS OUR GOAL AND WHY SAIGOU-SAMA TAUGHT US TERRORISM TACTICS.

THAT WE HAVE NO IDEA WHO THE ENEMY IS

HOWEVER, THE PROB-LEM IS

チュン

チュン

チュン

チュン

チュン

TO THINK THAT THEY WOULD USE A BLACK OPS UNIT... THERE SURE ARE SOME SCHEMERS AMONG THE VASSALS.

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, SAGARA-SAMA.

WE STILL HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY NEWS FROM OUR SPIES WITHIN THE SHOGUNATE AND SHOUNAI DOMAIN.

THERE'S STILL NO PROOF THAT THESE WERE ASSASSINS SENT BY THE SHOGUNATE.

EITHER WAY, IF THEY HAVE GATHERED THAT MANY SKILLED WARRIORS, THERE SHOULD BE RUMORS ABOUT THEM.

THE SHINCHOUGUMI MIGHT BE WARRIORS OF THE SHOUNAI DOMAIN, SUMMONED FROM THEIR HOMETOWNS OR RANDOM RONIN FROM HERE AND THERE.

TL/N - Shinchou-gumi were a police-like defense organi-zation during the Edo Shogunate.

IF WE DROP THE BALL NOW, THE ENEMY'S SURPRISE ATTACK WILL HAVE REAL CONSE-QUENCES.

ANYWAY, WE'LL CONTINUE WITH THE ACTS OF TERROR.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU, MASUMITSU-KUN.

Y-YES SIR!

OH, WHERE'S IMUDA-KUN?

HUH?

NEXT TIME WE'LL DO THE SAME TO THEM! I SWEAR!

MAENO-SUKE?

HE HAS BEEN STANDING AT MAENOSUKE'S BODY THE WHOLE TIME.

IMUDA-DONO HAS BEEN OVER THERE FOR A WHILE

HOW STUPID.

HEH.

YES... SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

PEDE-RASTY?

THE YOUNG LAD HE HAD HIS EYES ON...

HE'S LACKING A STRONG SPIRIT.

...

AS PATRIOTS, WE HAVE TO FOCUS ALL OUR ENERGY ON OUR MISSION. THERE'S NO ROOM FOR OUR OWN FEELINGS.

RIGHT NOW, THE FUTURE OF THIS LAND IS AT STAKE. WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF EXPELLING THE FOR-EIGNERS.

TL/N - Expulsion of foreign-ers (or barban-ans) is re-ferring to the decree by the Emperor to prevent the west-ernization of Japan.


ボウ…
チチ…

CHAPTER 7 SURPRISE ATTACK



TWENTY PEOPLE?!

TWE...

WITH JUST TEN MEN?

YOU KILLED TWENTY PEOPLE...

NINE, MILORD.

YOU SAY?

JUST ONE

CASUALTY IN THE FIGHT.

WE HAD ONE

ONE?!

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A SURPRISE ATTACK, I THOUGHT HALF OF THEM WOULD DIE IN THE BATTLE.

I BELIEVE YOU.

I... I'M ASTON-ISHED!

THE ENEMY LOST THEIR LEADER AND FELL INTO CHAOS.

ON TOP OF THAT, MOST OF THE ENEMY WERE THUGS AND FALLEN RONIN. THEY WERE ALSO NOT PREPARED FOR A SURPRISE ATTACK.

THOSE PEASANTS ARE PRETTY GOOD.

I SEE...

BY COOPERATING WITH EACH OTHER, THEY CORNERED THE ENEMY AND PREVENTED THEIR COUNTER ATTACK. THIS LED TO THIS OVERWHELMING VICTORY.

THAT BEING SAID, THE PEASANTS WEREN'T ALL MUSCLE. THEY ALSO USED THEIR BRAINS.

I RECKON THAT THE ENEMY WILL BE MORE PREPARED FROM NOW ON.

HOWEVER, THIS WON'T NECESSAR-ILY BE TRUE THE NEXT TIME.

YES?

MILORD, IT MIGHT BE INAPPROPRI-ATE, BUT THERE'S ONE THING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.

I'VE ALREADY COME UP WITH A COUNTER PLAN, THOUGH...

WELL, I SUPPOSE...

IF THERE IS ANY UNUSED ARMOR AROUND, I'D LIKE TO ASK FOR YOUR APPROVAL TO USE IT.

EVEN THOUGH THERE'S LUCK INVOLVED, THAT BUNCH MADE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS IN SUCH A SHORT TIME.

REPLACE-MENTS FOR THE UNIT.

AND...

SFX: Sweeping

THIS MISSION ISN'T QUITE FEASIBLE WITH THESE NUMBERS...

EVEN IF IT'S JUST A COUNTER TERRORISM UNIT,

SWEEP

WE HAVE TO HOLD ADMISSION TESTS FOR PEASANTS ALL OVER THE PLACE AND TRAIN THE CAPABLE ONES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WHEN THEY SORTIE EVERY DAY, IT'S NECES-SARY TO HAVE SUBSTI-TUTIONS.

CLICK

WE DON'T WANT TO ALERT THE ENEMY.

HEY, LEAVE YOUR RIFLES BEHIND.

AND MY MEN ARE READY!

I, KAIEDA NOBUYOSHI

IS TO PREVENT ANOTHER ATTACK BY THE ENEMY LIKE LAST NIGHT!

GENTLEMEN! THE REASON THAT YOU, THE MOST SKILLED WARRIORS OF THIS DOMAIN ARE HERE,

WE CANNOT DELAY OUR TERROR ATTACKS.

THE ENEMY'S NUMBERS RANGE FROM 20 TO 30 MEN, AND ALL OF THEM ARE SKILLED!

HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO STRIKE BACK, WE MUST FIRST UNVEIL THEIR IDENTITIES!

WE WERE AFRAID THAT OUR SKILLS WOULD BECOME DULL BY DEALING ONLY WITH COWARDS.

REGARDLESS OF HOW MANY THERE ARE, WE WILL KICK THEIR ASSES.

PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME, MASUMITSU-DONO.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU, UMIEDA-DONO.

...GOOD.

YES... I TOLD HIM THAT, TOO...

THAT'S NOT HIS DUTY.

HE LEFT EARLY FOR THE CITY THIS MORNING TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION.

WHERE'S IMUDA-DONO?

WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING?!

NOW OF ALL TIMES?

WHA...

SFX: Alarm

HURRY AND CALL A DOCTOR!

FATHER! HANG IN THERE!

MURASAKIYA GOT ATTACKED AS WELL!

THE GOVERN-MENT WON'T LAST FOR LONG...

AT THIS RATE

WHAT IS THE LORD DOING?

DAMMIT! WHERE ARE THE GUARDS?!

SFX:
Running

THERE'S NO SIGN OF THEM.

WHY WON'T THEY ATTACK?

YEAH...

UMIEDA-DONO.

I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE SATSUMA IS PAYING SO WELL,

BUT IT'S NOT WORTH LOSING MY LIFE OVER IT.

IN YESTERDAY'S ATTACK, TAMEZOU FROM MY VILLAGE WAS KILLED.

NOTHING HAPPENED TODAY, BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN TOMORROW.

USH... IT STINKS!

THE PEASANT IS HAULING MANURE...

TRUE, BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST TIMING RIGHT NOW.

SFX: Cart shaking

YEAH, I'M SHOCKED, TOO. EVEN THAT MANJIRO IS BETTER THAN THEM.

BUT DON'T YOU THINK THAT SAIGUMA IS USING THE WRONG MEANS TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOAL?

HA HA HA.

HA?

SFX:
Whack!
Slash!

SFX:
Thunk!

SHIT!

SFX: Stabbing and slashing

SFX: Blood splatter

ゴス

ブシュ

ビチ

ビチ

ビチ

UH...

HII!

RA-
RANDOM
KILLINGS!

G-
GOOD.

PULL
BACK!

RIGHT!
IF THE ASSAS-
SINATIONS ARE
FOCUSED ON
THE RONIN,

THEN
WE CAN
PREVENT
UNIT CASU-
ALTIES.

ISN'T THAT JUST TOO SIMPLE?

HOW-EVER...

SO THE IDEA IS TO CONTINUE THE MISSION WITH EIGHT MEN.

WHETHER OR NOT TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS FOR THE UNIT IN THE FUTURE.

WE COULDN'T GET PERMIS-SION FOR THEM TO WEAR ARMOR AND OUR LORD IS STILL CON-SIDERING

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT.

DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD TARGET A BIG CLAN WHO ARE WORKING WITH THE TERRORISTS AS CONSPIR-ATORS?

MY POINT IS THAT KILLING EVERY ONE OF THEM IN A SURPRISE ATTACK ISN'T FLASHY ENOUGH.

HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO GET THE BEST POSSIBLE RESULTS WITH EIGHT MEN.

KATSU-SAMA

BUT IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO GATHER SO MANY MEN THAT QUICKLY.

I'M SURE SATSUMA WILL FIND SKILLED MEN FOR THIS,

AGREED.

IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S OUR DUTY TO IMPEDE SATSUMA'S ACTS OF TERRORISM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

THEIR RINGLEADER, SAGARA, IS BAITING PEOPLE INTO THIS WITH A LOT OF MONEY.

IN ORDER TO LAY WASTE TO THE CITY, THEY NEED TO EMPLOY A LARGE NUMBER OF RONIN AND THUGS.

ULTIMATELY, THEY AREN'T READY TO DIE FOR THIS CAUSE.

THEY'RE AN IMMORAL BUNCH.

WE'LL AIM TO KILL TEN RONIN WITH EVERY AMBUSH.

BEING FLASHY ISN'T IM-PORTANT.

WITHOUT THE NUMBERS, THEY REALLY CAN'T RAM-PAGE THROUGH THE CITY, CAN THEY?

SFX:
Whoosh!
Wham!

GUAAH!

HIII!

I'M NOT HELP-
ING SATSUMA
ON MY OWN
VOLITION!

PLEASE
WAIT!

WAIT!

I'M BEGGING YOU!

IF I DIE HERE, MY FAMILY WILL BE ON THE STREETS.

MY MOTHER IS SICK AND WE CAN'T EVEN PAY THE RENT...

WELL... SAMURAI-SAMA, YOU HAVE YOUR OWN CIRCUM-STANCES

EIGHT?

THIS DOESN'T CONCERN US

KEEIII!

WAAH!

HIEEEH!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!

DIE YOU FUCKING SAMURAI!

W-WE HAVE TO TREAT GEN!

I WILL MAKE HIM PAY!

THAT BASTARD TRICKED ME!

CHANG

CHANG

My haaair is messed

The reeeason

The pilloooow!

Is the faaault of

TL/N: THIS IS A SHORT BALLAD SUNG BY PROSTI-TUTES DURING THE EDO AND MEIJI ERA. IT'S AN ELO-QUENT WAY OF SAYING "I'VE SLEPT WITH ANOTHER CUSTO-MER."

seeeing me

WHY ARE YOU JUST STANDING THERE?

WON'T YOU TAKE A SIP WITH ME?

Liiiike this

Makes youuu dis-trustful..

SHUT UP!

BUT IS IT OKAY TO KILL THIS DRUNKARD?

YEAH.

HE'S THE LAST ONE.

HUH?

I SAID I'LL LEAVE HIS DEATH TO YOU.

I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU, ICHI.

BUT HE ISN'T FROM SATSU-MA

THIS IS ALL SATSUMA'S FAULT FOR KILLING EVERYONE!

ARE YOU FINISHED? WE SHOULD GO BEFORE PEOPLE ARRIVE, BRO.

YEAH, WE'RE DONE HERE. WE SHOULD HEAD BACK AND DRINK SOME SAKE, TOO.

HEY! WAIT!

LET'S GO, CHIYO.

Pleeease forgive meeee!

This is my joooob, living the life of pros-titution...

AREN'T YOU A SAMURAI?!

HEY YOU BASTARD! GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER!

TSK!

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FOOD TO EAT,

YOU AREN'T EVEN A HUMAN.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SAMURAI, YOU SAY?

A REAL SAMURAI!

I'M NOT SOMEONE WHO JUST ACTS LIKE A SAMURAI! I AM...

LISTEN TO ME! I'M NOT LIKE YOU!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

SATSUMA RESIDENCE

I BELIEVE THAT'S WHAT THEIR AIM IS.

IN JUST TWO DAYS, MORE THAN THIRTY RONIN HAVE DESERTED!

AT THIS RATE WE WILL HAVE TO REDUCE OUR ATTACKS!

BUT THE RUMORS ARE ALREADY MAKING THE ROUNDS. THE RONIN IN THE CITY ARE TOO AFRAID TO ASSOCIATE WITH US.

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF RECRUITS BY RAISING THEIR PAY!

THEY'RE TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE THAT THE RONIN ARE HANGING OUTSIDE AND AMBUSHING THEM.

WHY DID THEY START AMBUSHING ONLY A FEW RONIN AFTER THE NEW YEAR?

BUT IT'S QUITE STRANGE...

BUT WE HAVE TO RELY ON THE RONIN UNTIL THEY ARRIVE.

WE'VE ASKED FOR HELP FROM OUR COMRADES ALL OVER THE PLACE,

I SEE...

IN-DEED...

THEY WOULD ATTAIN A BIGGER VICTORY IF THEY ALL ATTACKED TOGETHER AT ONCE.

IF THE ENEMY CONSISTS OF THIRTY SKILLED WARRIORS,

WELL...

DO WE HAVE A WORD FROM OUR SPIES?

UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING THAT CORROBORATES WHAT MASUMITSU HAS SUGGESTED.

WE'RE GATHERING INFORMATION FROM SEVERAL SPIES EVERY DAY.

THERE AREN'T THAT MANY ENEMIES AND THEY'RE INEXPERIENCED.

IT MIGHT BE, AS MASUMITSU-DONO PREDICTED,

.....

WELL...

A STRANGER?

WHAT DID HE SAY?

WE'VE RECEIVED SOME INFORMATION FROM HIM.

HOWEVER... SOME STRANGER HAS COME TO US TODAY.

YE MAY OPEN YER EARS.

AYE.

COUNTRY SAMURAI.

WON'T KNOW.

THIS IS SOMETHING YER DUMB SPIES

IF IT'S SOMETHING USEFUL, WE'LL PAY YOU.

LET US HEAR HIM OUT.

WAIT!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?! WATCH YOUR TONGUE!

IN OTHER WORDS, AT THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER, SOME SAMURAIS WENT TO THE VILLAGES ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF EDO

AND HELD A COMPETITION TO EMPLOY TEN STRONG MEN.

YOU WOULDN'T HOLD A COMPETI-TION FOR A LABOR JOB.

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

AREN'T THEY JUST PEOPLE WHO DO ODD LABOR JOBS?

IT'S NOT TOO UNCOM-MON.

YES.

PEAS-ANTS?

IMUDA-DONO.

HE APPEARS TO BE A HOMELESS WANDER-ER.

TRUE... A COMPE-TITION IS DEFINITELY ODD.

SO, WHO'S THE INFOR-MANT?

GULP

NO WONDER WE COULDN'T FIND THEM AMONG THE RONIN WITHIN THE CITY.

I SEE... PEASANTS, HUH...

THE WORLD IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF US! DON'T FALL BEHIND, MIDGET!

CHAPTER 8 COUNTER MEASURE

I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SAMURAI FIGHTING!

I'M JUST A PEASANT!

SFX: Stoooo oooop

ろ

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ち

HEY, GET YOURSELF TOGETHER!

WAA AAAA AAH!

IT WAS JUST A NIGHT-MARE.

WHAT'S WRONG?

IS MY FACE THAT SCARY?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, BRO?

?

HII...

YON... YONEKICHI.

UHYAA AAAH!

THERE WE GO AGAIN.

SHUUUT THE HELL UP!

IT'S HARD TO GET SOME SLEEP WHEN SOMEONE KEEPS MOANING ALL THE TIME.

WHAT?

YEAH, I'M FINE.

BRO, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

LOOK AT HIS STUPID FACE.

ICHI IS THE ONLY ONE WHO SLEEPS LIKE A BABY.

SFX: Scratch, scratch. Snoring.

WE STILL HAVE TIME UNTIL MORNING PRACTICE.

SERIOUSLY... WE ALL WOKE UP BECAUSE OF HIM...

DAMN! I WANT TO DRINK SOME SAKE TO KILL THE TIME...

SO COLD!

SO...

ウ

ヒュ

ウ

TO PLAY WITH SWORDS?

SO YOU ROUSED US OUT OF OUR WARM BEDS FOR WHAT?

JUST COME AT ME WITH A FRONTAL ATTACK.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING.

WE'LL LEARN HOW TO HANDLE A SWORD.

WE'RE PRACTICING, NOT TRAINING!

ARE YOU SAYING, YOU LITTLE MIDGET?!

WHAT...

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU ARE GOING TO HIT ME ANYWAY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK.

AL-RIGHT!

LET'S DO THIS!

BEAT THAT MIDGET TO A PULP!

GO AND GET HIM, ICHI!

SFX: Dash

DO RYA AA H!

SFX: Pop!

GYAHAHAHAHAHA!

OW WW WW!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO DODGE.

ALRIGHT! LET'S CHANGE.

BECAUSE YOU'RE REACTING, YOU'RE SLOWER.

USHI, SINCE YOU'RE SMALL, YOU WON'T DODGE ICHI'S ATTACK IN TIME, EVEN IF YOU MOVE AT THE SAME PACE.

I SEE!

TSK!

COME AT ME, MIDGET!

I'LL TURN YOU INTO CURRY!

UNLIKE YOU, I'VE GOT THE HEIGHT ADVANTAGE.

THIS HAS GOTTEN INTERESTING!

I BET MY BREAKFAST THAT ICHI WILL DODGE IT!

HM?

SFX: Swish

HOH!

TEEH!

SFX: Whaw!

UGH!

SEE? THAT'S WHAT I'M REALLY CAPABLE OF!

WOW! YOU DODGED IT!

SFX: Chuckle

IT'S NORMAL TO BE ATTACKED FROM THE OTHER SIDE, IF YOU STEP BACK.

HE HAS A POINT.

OEE GH...

DON'T STOP FIGHTING UNTIL THE ENEMY IS DEAD!

HM...

HOW DO WE CHANGE OUR POSI-TION TO CUT THE ENEMY THEN?

HOW ABOUT COUNTERING HIS SWORD WITH YOUR OWN IF YOU CAN'T STEP BACK?

YOU'RE ALL SO FIRED UP ABOUT THIS.

I CAN DO IT MUCH BETTER!

WAIT! I'VE A GOOD IDEA!

ALRIGHT! LET ME TRY IT NEXT!

SFX: Blowing

I'VE CONFIRMED IT WITH THE VILLAGE GOVERNORS.

THERE WAS INDEED SOMEONE WHO HELD A COMPETI-TION AND HIRED TEN PEASANTS.

NOBODY IN THE VILLAGE KNOWS ABOUT THEIR WHERE-ABOUTS.

PREPOS-TEROUS!

ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT A BUNCH OF PEASANTS WHO HAVE ONLY TRAINED FOR A FEW DAYS CAUSED US SUCH HEAVY LOSSES?!

チャ

……

ブン

I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR HONEST OPINION.

YOU HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST THEM.

IMUDA-DONO.

AS IF HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO PROPER-LY WIELD A LONG SWORD.

WAS STANDING THERE LIKE A SCARE-CROW.

THE ONE I CUT DOWN

IT'S ONLY POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THIS IN SUCH A SHORT TIME IF THEY WERE PHYSICALLY FIT AND WERE FAST LEARNERS...

WHOEVER IS BEHIND THIS HAS ONLY TAUGHT THEM THE VERY BASICS OF ACTUAL COMBAT. THEY HAVE BEEN ONLY THOROUGHLY TRAINED TO ATTACK.

HMM.

THOSE WHO WERE CUT DOWN WERE EITHER FACING AWAY OR WERE ABOUT TO DRAW THEIR SWORDS.

PEASANTS...

I REALLY FEEL BAD FOR MAENOSUKE...

THEY WERE KILLED BY MERE PEASANTS BEFORE THEY COULD ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING...

WHAT'S THE MATTER,

IMUDA-DONO?

SFX: Fwoosh!

WOAH!

PEAS-ANTS...

BUT I'VE TO SAY...

YOU SHOULDN'T GET YOUR TOWEL WET...

I'VE TO REPORT THIS TO SAGARA-SAMA.

I'M GOING TO RAISE MONEY IN ORDER TO CRUSH THOSE PEASANTS!

AGREEING TO KILL PEASANTS...

HE WON'T BE...

W-WAIT, IMUDA-DONO!

ゴッ

I UNDER-
STAND.

PEASANTS,
HUH?

I SEE THAT THEY'VE ONLY BEEN ATTACKING RONIN WHO LET THEIR GUARD DOWN.

BESIDES WEREN'T YOUR MEN AMBUSHED DURING THE NIGHT?

SO WHAT IF THEY'RE PEASANTS?

SAGARA-SAMA!

WE BELIEVE THAT JUST TEN PEASANTS DID THAT TO US, BUT...

NO, GUER-RIL-LA!

AH, LIKE THE SOUND DIARRHEA MAKES!

GU...

GUE...?

IN OTHER WORDS

IT'S GUERRILLA WARFARE.

SFX: Scribble

IT'S AN ILLEGAL ARMY OF COMMON-ERS.

IT'S A TACTIC FROM WESTERN EUROPE.

FLAP

WHICH ALSO MEANS, THE MORE PEOPLE HE HAS TO COMMAND, THE LOWER HIS CHANCES ARE TO WIN.

BASICALLY, THE ENEMY'S COMMANDER IS SOMEONE CAPABLE.

THEREFORE IT REQUIRES THEIR COM-MANDER TO BE CLEVER AND QUICK-WITTED.

THE IDEA OF THIS TACTIC ISN'T TO WIN BY BRUTE FORCE, BUT TO OUT-WIT YOUR ENEMY.

SFX: Baffled

WELL...

WE...

AM I WRONG, MASU-MITSU-KUN?

IT'S AN UTTER DISGRACE IF THOSE PEASANTS CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS.

I'D LIKE YOU TO GIVE YOUR PERMISSION TO ATTACK THE VILLAGES OF THOSE PEASANTS.

IN THAT CASE, SAGARA-SAMA,

AS LONG AS WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE ENEMY'S HQ IS, WE CAN'T RANSACK THEIR VILLAGES.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

HUH?

NO!

HOWEVER!

OUR TARGETS ARE THE VICIOUS MERCHANTS WHO TAKE THE FRUITS OF OTHER'S HARD WORK.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE FOURTH PRINCIPLE OF OUR ACTIONS?

WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE FOR STUPID PERSONAL GRUDGES!

THIS IS THE TIME WHERE WE HAVE TO PUSH OUT THE BARBARIANS FOR THE SAKE OF THE FATHERLAND!

STOP IT, IMUDADOHO!

WHO DID YOU CALL STUPID?!

ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT I CAN'T EVEN FEEL SORRY FOR MY FALLEN FRIEND, OUR COMRADE?!

IF WE ATTACK POOR VILLAGES, PEOPLE WILL BE EVEN MORE WARY OF US.

THERE ARE ALREADY THUGS WHO KILL PEOPLE LEFT AND RIGHT, AND ROB SHOPS IN THE NAME OF SATSUMA.

GET LOST!

IT TRULY SICKENS ME WHEN I SEE IMPRUDENT PEOPLE LIKE YOU!

HMPH!

ALTHOUGH, I DON'T THINK THE ENEMY IS CARELESS ENOUGH TO BE EASILY FOUND

ANY-WAY, KEEP SEARCHING FOR THE ENEMY'S HQ

I CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS!

SAGARA-SAMA!

IN OUR CURRENT SITUATION IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CONTINUE THEM.

SO HOW DO WE CONTINUE WITH THE TERROR ATTACKS?

WE'LL ATTACK THE POLICE STATIONS IN THE CITY.

WHICH MEANS...

HOWEVER, IN RETURN, WE WILL ATTACK A MORE STRATEGIC TARGET THAT WILL HURT THE ENEMY MORE.

IT'S INEVITABLE THAT WE MUST REDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF OUR ATTACKS, THOUGH...

THEY HAVE TO CONTINUE NO MATTER WHAT!

WE HAVE TO SHOW THEM NO MERCY, OR THE ENEMY WINS THIS.

AT THIS POINT, WE DEVISE A BOLD PLAN AND HIT THEM RIGHT IN THE GUT.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SHINE, MASUMITSU-KUN.

THE...

THE SHINCHOU-GUMI?

HM?

SFX: Gunshots, bullets whizzing.

THE POLICE STATION IN AKABANE HAS BEEN ATTACKED AS WELL!

THEY'VE PROBABLY RETREATED TO THEIR HIDEOUT ALREADY...

EVEN IF WE'RE IN THE CITY, IT'LL BE HARD TO HUNT THEM DOWN.

THE ENEMY HAS BEEN ATTACKING THE POLICE STATIONS!

THEY MUST HAVE GONE INSANE TO ATTACK US!

HA?!

THOSE DAMN SATSUMA THUGS...

SFX:
Whhhack!

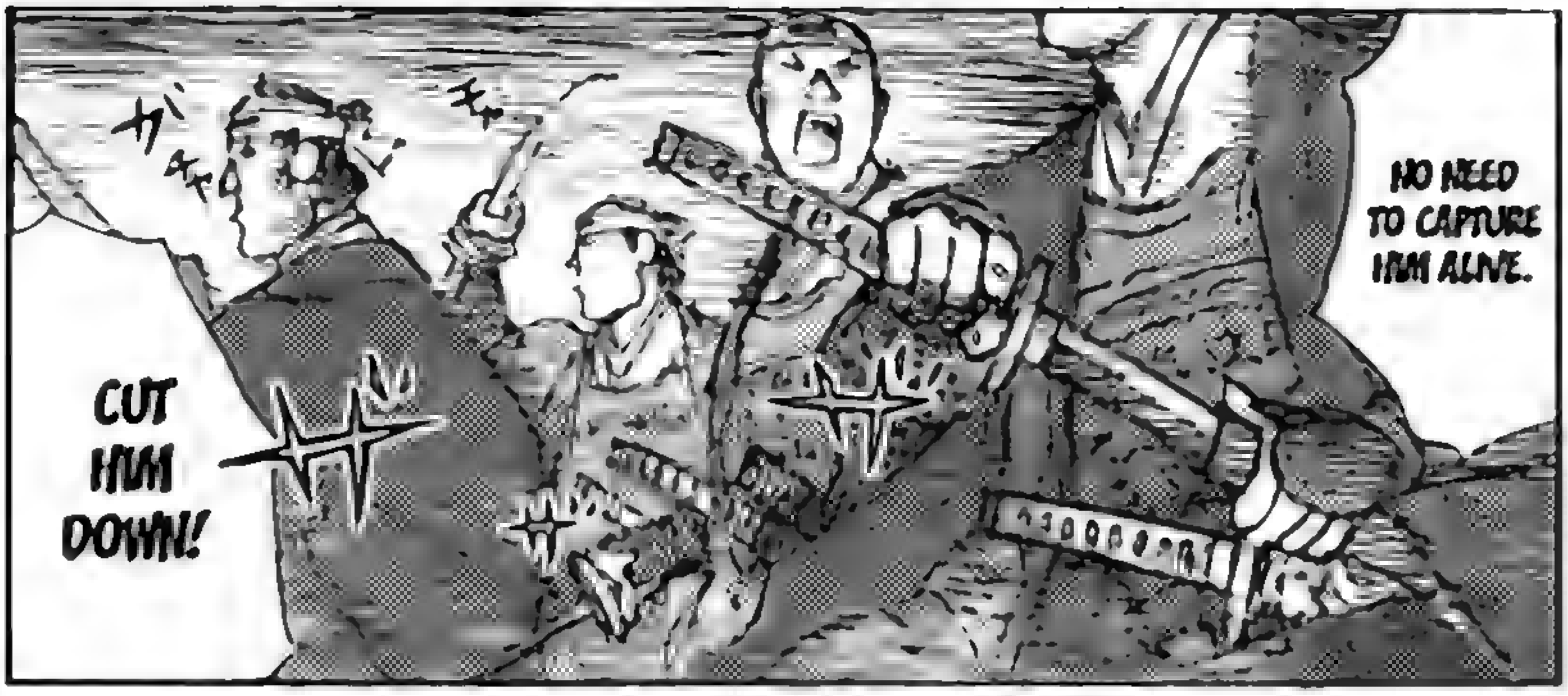
IS RIGHT HERE.

THE VILLAIN YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

TAP

WHO ARE YOU?

WHO...


CUT HIM DOWN!
NO NEED TO CAPTURE HIM ALIVE.


THE ENEMY IS ALONE!


JUST FIVE OF YOU?
WHAT?

SFX: Whoosh! Rushing

SFX: Clang, grab.

SFX: Pull, Spin

WAAH!

SFX:
Slash

SFX:
Whoosh
whack

OO OH!

SFX:
Wham!

OUH!

SFX: Swish! Clang. whish

SFX: Saa- slash

とお

お

SFX:
Oooh!

SFX:
Ka-
thunk!

SFX: Squish

SFX: Wham!

THE BLADE IS UNUSABLE NOW.

TSK!

GRAB

SFX: Clang

SAGARA-SAMA HAS ALLOWED TO ATTACK THE POLICE STATIONS WITH ONLY RIFLES. WHY IS HE GOING ALONE?

WHAT IS THAT PERSON THINKING, KAIEDA-DONO?

WE DON'T WANT HIM AS AN ENEMY.

YES, BUT AS A SWORDSMAN HE IS SUPERB.

SFX: Ba-bonk!

GA HAHA HA!

HII II!

TOLD YOU. YOU'RE TOO SLOW, USHI!



CHAPTER 9 LOVE LETTER

THE RIOT POLICE THAT'S UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE SHOGUNATE, HUH?

FROM NOW ON, OUR AIM IS TO KEEP THE OUTLAWS OUT OF THE CITY AND HAVE A POLICE PRESENCE.

内め中

WHEN I WAS ASSIGNED TO THIS MISSION, I DIDN'T EVEN THINK OF THAT AT FIRST.

IT'S AS IF MY NOTES DIRECTLY REFLECT THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE SHINSENGUMI.

SFX: Chewing

モグ

モグ

SO THAT WOULD BE THE SHINSENGUMI OF EDO.

I SEE.

IT JUST PROVES THAT THEY ARE BY NO MEANS INFERIOR TO SAMURAIS.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE ARE MANY WARRIORS ENROLLING IN THE SHINSEN-GUMI THAT DON'T HAVE SAMURAI STATUS.

THERE ARE BOTH SKILLED AND UNSKILLED WARRIORS.

THEY MIGHT BE LOWER IN SOCIETY, BUT THEY TOO, ARE HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL.

SFX: Flapping. Hmmm.

YOU MEAN THE PEAS-ANTS?

IN FACT, THEY ARE EXTREMELY VALUABLE BECAUSE OF THEIR TALENTS.

Hm Hm

WITH THE CURRENT SQUAD SIZE, IT'LL BE EVEN HARDER TO PERSUADE HIM.

FOR NOW, I'LL RE-EM-PHASIZE THAT WE HAVE TO ADD MORE MEN TO THE UNIT.

GOING TO PROPOSE YOUR PLAN TO KATSU-SAMA?

SO, ARE YOU

MAY I HAVE THEM?

SHIMADA-DONO... IF YOU AREN'T EATING THOSE RICE DUMP-LINGS...

SO, I'LL FOCUS ON REPLENISH-ING THE SQUAD FIRST.

BUT LATELY YOU HAVE BEEN MORE POSITIVE ABOUT IT, AND YOU SEEM TO HAVE A BRIGHTER EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE, SHIMADA-DONO.

YOU WEREN'T TOO EAGER ABOUT THIS WHEN YOU WERE EN-TRUSTED WITH THIS MISSION...

SFX: Stare

ME?

A BRIGHTER EXPRES-SION?

YEAH.

SFX: Slowly

I WONDER ...

HMM

THERE'S NO MIS-TAKE.

THAN I ANTICI-PATED.

LOOKS LIKE THOSE PEASANTS ARE MORE USEFUL

AA!

.....

WE BETTER GET GOING, OR WE'LL BE LATE...

OH!

IT GOT AWAY AGAIN!

SHIT!

I'VE HEARD THAT THERE WERE FATALITIES.

ENEMIES WHO ARE THOUGHT TO BE WITH SATSUMA HAVE ATTACKED POLICE STATIONS AT SHONAI WITH GUNS.

IT'S LIKE AN EXCHANGE OF LOVE LETTERS.

AH... THAT'S PROBABLY THEIR ANSWER TO US.

AH... WHAT A TOUCHING LOVE LETTER. IT REALLY MOVES MY HEART... DON'T YOU AGREE?

POLICE STATIONS WITH GUNS, THE DAMAGE IS MUCH GREATER FOR THE GOVERNOR.

EVEN IF IT'S A SMALL SCALE ASSAULT, IF THEY'RE ATTACKING

AS A RESULT, IT'LL BE EXTREMELY HARD FOR THEM TO COMMIT TERRORIST ATTACKS.

THANKS TO THE ONE STRIKE SQUAD THAT YOU'RE LEADING, SATSUMA'S RONINS ARE ANNIHILATED.

AND HERE'S THE PROBLEM.

THERE ARE ONLY A FEW RONIN THAT REMAIN AT THE SHIBA RESIDENCE.

AFTER TODAY'S SORTIE, THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE RONINS.

WE HAVE TO GIVE THEM OUR ANSWER...

IN THAT CASE

SFX: Swoosh

SFX: FLAP

IT'LL BE TOUGH.

THERE'LL BE ONLY SATSUMA THUGS LEFT.

THEY'LL FIGHT TO THE BITTER END.

THE PEASANTS HAVE MADE A TREMENDOUS PROGRESS.

PLEASE RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION, MILORD.

AS I'VE ALREADY MENTIONED A FEW DAYS AGO, THERE'S A DIRE NEED TO REPLENISH THE SQUAD.

BUT SHIBA'S SPY ALREADY KNOWS THAT WE'VE EMPLOYED PEASANTS.

I'M NOT SURE IF YOU'RE AWARE OF THIS,

IT'LL BE REALLY PROBLEMATIC IF THEY DEDUCE THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE ONE STRIKE SQUAD FROM THERE.

IF WE GO OUT VILLAGE TO VILLAGE HIRING PEASANTS ON A LARGE SCALE, THEY WILL BE ON TO US.

WE HAVE A MOLE AMONG US?

WE MUST BE EXTREMELY DISCREET NOW.

WHOA! HERE IT COMES!

WHO COULD IT BE?

THIS REALLY ISN'T GOING MY WAY.

SHIT!

SFX: Plink

THEREFORE WE WON'T RECRUIT ANY NEW SOLDIERS.

SO, THAT'S THE SITU-ATION.

I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU.

SFX: Plunk...

FLAP

WE CAN'T JUST TURN A BLIND EYE TO THE GOOD MEN.

HOWEVER, WE STILL NEED TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO THEIR "LOVE LETTER."

GIVE THEM THE ANSWER BEFORE THEY GET AWAY WITH IT.

SO, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO CARE-FULLY PREPARE.

A GOOD LOVE LETTER THAT WILL SINK DEEP DOWN INTO THEIR HEART.

PLOP

DO OO OH!

YOU!

WOAH!

SFX: Whoosh

SFX: Clack, clack, wham!

FUH!

HOH!

SFX:
Clack!

SFX:
Sliding

UGH!
FALL OUT!

NUOH!

STRIKE
NOW!

ALRIGHT,
THIS IS YOUR
CHANCE,
USHI!

WOAH!

SHIT!

SFX:
Whack!
Snap!

ONE MORE TIME!

YOU'RE ALSO TAKING TOO LONG TO CHANGE YOUR STANCE.

OWW!

NOT AGAIN!

COME AT ME, MIDGET!

GETTING COCKY, AREN'T YOU?

SHIT!

ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT THE HELL

HE HE!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

UH...

WE DECIDED TO PLAY WITH STICKS TO KILL TIME.

SINCE WE HAD FREE TIME UNTIL THE NIGHT SORTIE...

A...

AYE.

USHIGORO, SAY SOMETHING!

DID WE DO SOMETHING WRONG?

YOU...

AYE, JUST PLAYING.

ARE YOU SAYING YOU WERE JUST PLAYING?

DECIDED TO PLAY?

JUDGE A BLADE AND COUNTER ATTACK, HUH?

I TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT THAT IDIOT FORCED US TO DO THIS. IT'S ALL HIS FAULT.

HE WAS PRACTICING HOW TO JUDGE A BLADE AND COUNTER ATTACK.

AYE...

A RING? FOR SUMO?

IT'S SUP-POSED TO BE A RING.

AND WHAT'S THE CIRCLE YOU'VE DRAWN SUPPOSED TO BE?

AYE...

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING?

PRACTICING SWORDSMAN-SHIP WITHIN AN ARENA? HOW UTTERLY STUPID.

FURTHER-MORE, EVERYONE IS IMPROVING HOW THEY HANDLE THEMSELVES THAT WAY.

I THOUGHT WE COULD APPLY THE KNOW-HOW OF SUMO TO SWORDS-MANSHIP BY DRAWING A SUMO RING.

IT'S TO GET RID OF THE HABIT OF GOING DOWN.

THAT'S THE HARDEST PART. IT'S GIVING US TROUBLE.

AYE...

THE TIMING BETWEEN SWORDS-MANSHIP AND SUMO IS DIFFER-ENT.

BUT THE LOGIC ISN'T THAT WRONG...

INDEED. I HAVEN'T HEARD OF ANYONE COMBINING THESE TWO AREAS BEFORE...

DO AS YOU WANT.

WHATEVER.

YOU SURE THINK ABOUT STRANGE THINGS...

.....

IT'S THEIR FREE TIME. THEY DON'T NEED OUR PERMISSION UNLESS THEY LEAVE THIS PLACE OR BUILD A FIRE.

IS IT ALRIGHT, SHIMADA-DONO?

BUT THIS CAN'T BECOME A PROBLEM WITH YOUR TRAINING.

AM I CLEAR?

I DON'T MIND IF YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY WITH STICKS,

THEY'RE MERELY PLAYING WITH STICKS, THAT'S ALL.

BESIDES, IN THE END, IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN THE SHALLOW IDEA OF PEASANTS. COMBINING SWORDS AND SUMO IS RIDICU-LOUS.

NO, BUT THAT STUPID USHI-GOROU...

AYE!

A...

SFX: Walking

AYE!

DON'T BE LATE TO ROLL-CALL.

STEP

ABOUT YOUR MOVE-MENTS EARLIER.

THERE ARE TOO MANY UN-NECESSARY MOVEMENTS WHEN YOU'RE STRIKING BACK.

AYE...

IS THERE SOME-THING ELSE?

HEY USHI-GOROU.

SFX: Flench

I'LL TEACH YOU SOME TRICKS.

GIVE ME THAT STICK.

IT SHOULD ALREADY FEEL INTUITIVE TO YOU.

DEPEND-ING ON THE SITUATION, THERE ARE VARIOUS WAYS TO USE THEM DURING ACTUAL COMBAT.

ALRIGHT, THESE ARE THE SIMPLE BASICS...

AYE.

SFX: Hmmm.

I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY JUST BECAUSE IT'S THEIR FREE TIME.

OR PERHAPS, SHIMADA-DONO IS JUST FOOL-ING WITH THE PEASANTS... I HAVE NO IDEA.

AYE.

TRY STABBING ME, USHI-GOROU.

I THOUGHT OUR LORD ONLY TOLD US TO TEACH THEM HOW TO ATTACK...

THOSE WHO ARE DONE PREPARING STEP OUT-SIDE AND STAND-BY.

DID YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT I TOLD YOU THE OTHER DAY?

HEY, CHIYO-MATSU.

ALRIGHT, THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW.

ANYWAY, I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU AND I'LL PAY FOR IT.

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS BABBLING ABOUT?

I'M BAD WITH COMPLI-CATED STUFF.

I KINDA DID, BUT...

NIGHT SOIL?!

WHA ...?

NIGHT SOIL.

WHAT BUSINESS?

AND WE'RE GOING TO START A BUSINESS.

EH?

HEHE! WE'RE PUTTING ASIDE THE MONEY WE EARN HERE

PR/N — "Night soil" is human feces collected for fertilizer use

WHY ARE YOU GETTING ANGRY?

WHY THE HELL WOULD A SAMURAI SCOOP UP SHIT?!

ARE YOU GUYS STUPID OR WHAT?!

WE HAVE SEVERAL YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WHEN IT COMES TO THAT.

AS LONG AS WE HAVE THE CAPITAL, IT'LL WORK OUT JUST FINE.

WE'RE SAMURAIS! GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER!

WORKING WITH NIGHT SOIL IS WHAT PEASANTS DO!

BESIDES, EVEN AFTER BECOMING A SAMURAI, MAKING MONEY BY OTHER MEANS IS USEFUL.

WHAT?!

WHAT YOU'RE SAYING MAKES NO SENSE AT ALL.

HEY ICHI, WHY AREN'T SAMURAIS ALLOWED TO DO BUSINESS WITH NIGHT SOIL?

IF YOU'RE GOING TO ACT LIKE A PEASANT, CUT UP YOUR STOMACH AND WAIT FOR YOUR DEATH!

YOU RETARD! A WARRIOR'S PRIDE COMES BEFORE HIS WELL-BEING!

THEY'RE ALL BEYOND HELP...

DAMN...

DOING BUSINESS WITH NIGHT SOIL MIGHT NOT BE THAT BAD, I GUESS?

WHA...

EVEN IF WE START A BUSINESS, WE'VE ONLY WORKED IN THE FIELDS.

BUT IT ALSO SUCKS TO BE A POOR SAMURAI.

PLEASE, WAIT!

WAIT!

I HAVE A SICK WIFE AND THREE LITTLE CHILDREN... AND... A DOG...

I DIDN'T SUPPORT SATSUMA BECAUSE I WANTED TO!

SFX: Wha-blam!

ONE OF THEM GOT AWAY!

AFTER HIM!

I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT SAME TRICK AGAIN!

NOBODY GIVES A SHIT ABOUT YOUR DOG!

PANT

PANT

PANT

PANT PANT PANT PANT

PANT

YAHH OOO!

SFX: Falling

GUH!

SFX: Clack

HAH!

ST...

STAY AWAY!

HI...

YOU GOTTA WATCH YOUR STEP IN THE DARK.

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU RUN IN PANIC.

SFX: Swish, whish

SO CLOSE!

WOAH!

DONE ALREADY?

WHAT'S WRONG?

WHEN YOU SWING YOUR SWORD IN A PANIC.

YOU AIN'T CUTTING US

DO YOU STILL CALL YOURSELVES SAMURAIS?!

YOU COWARDS!

GANGING UP ON A WOUNDED MAN...

SFX: Gasping

B-BUT HE...

LEAVE IT UP TO ME.

WAIT, ICHI!

ARE YOU SAYING THAT WE AREN'T SAMURAIS?!

WHAT DID YOU SAY...

WHA...

SFX: Fwipp!

WHAT...

SFX: Neck cracking

WE'LL LET YOU GO IF YOU CAN DEFEAT ME.

I'LL FIGHT YOU BARE-HANDED. YOU GOT NO COM-PLAINTS NOW, DO YOU?

SFX: Toss

JUST WAIT AND SEE.

EVEN IF IT'S YOU SHIM, FIGHT-ING THEM WITHOUT A WEAPON IS...

H-HEY... DON'T BE RECK-LESS.

UH...

COME AT ME!

SFX: Wham!

GUH.

NU...

IS EASY TO DODGE.

SOMEONE WHO MOVES AS SLOW AS YOU

WAAAAA!

SFX: Thump

WAAA!

SFX: Dodge, whoosh!

HE SAW RIGHT THROUGH HIM.

OOH!

SFX: Grab

GUHA!

STOP!

ALRIGHT, GOTCHA!

SFX: Swoosh!

WAAAAAH!

DORYAAAA!

SFX
Wham!
Snap!

GUH!
GEH!

GUH...

UUUH...

W-WOW. THAT'S THE GRAND CHAMPION OF THE VILLAGE FOR YOU!

HOW ABOUT THAT?

HOW PATHETIC ...

WHAT? ARE YOU GOING TO CRY?

GET YOUR SHIT TO-GETHER!

AND YOU STILL CALL YOURSELF A SAMURAI?

OH WELL.

WE HAVE TO REGROUP WITH USHI'S UNIT.

HEY ICHI, ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?

I WON'T DESTROY YOUR HONOR.

PICK IT UP.

YOU'LL COMMIT SEPPUKU LIKE A SAMURAI.

IN THE END

CHAPTER 10 LOWER THAN A DOG



SFX: Ching

NOW, CUT OPEN YOUR STOMACH LIKE A REAL SAMURAI.

THIS IS THE MERCY OF A SAMURAI.

YOU COWARD!

GET ON WITH IT. IT'S YOUR LAST MOMENTS,

DON'T WORRY.

I'LL DELIVER THE COUP DE GRACE.

ナム

チャ

I'LL HIT YOU IF YOU DO ANYTHING.

DON'T BUTT IN, WASA.

STOP IT, ICHI.

YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD.

W-WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?

OKAY, BOSS. NO NEED TO HOLD BACK NOW.

SLICE OPEN YOUR STOMACH IN ONE GO.

THIS IS GREAT ENTER-TAIN-MENT! HAHA HA.

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU SEE A SEPPUKU.

PANT

PANT

ALRIGHT! HE FINALLY DREW OUT HIS SWORD.

COME ON! DO IIIT!

ARE YOU STRIPPING OR COM-MITTING SEPPUKU?

AT.CACK! AT.CACK!

WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?!

DO IT!

DO IT!

DO IT!

HURRY UP, YOU IDIOT!

HIII!

WA AA AA AH!

DO IT!

SFX: Thwack!

HE DEFI-NITELY HAS BALLS!

HE... HE REALLY DID IT!

HIII!

SFX: Nose picking

HU-HURRY...

HURRY... AND CUT OFF MY HEAD...

W-
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

DID
YOU
SAY
SOME-
THING?

SEE
YA!
♡

I THINK,
I'LL PASS
ON THE
COUP DE
GRÂCE.

GYAHA
HAHA.
YOU'RE
SOOO
CRUEL!

HEY,
ICHI!

ALRIGHT!
LET'S GO!

Y-YOU
BAS-
TARD!

WHO
CARES?
LET'S
GO.

ISN'T
THAT TOO
CRUEL?

ARE YOU...
REALLY
PLANNING
TO LEAVE
THAT
SAMURAI
LIKE
THAT?

SFX: Blood pouring

GU!

YEAH!

DON'T FUCK WITH THE ONE STRIKE, ONE KILL SQUAD!

WELL, HE SAYS THAT WE WEREN'T SAMU-RAIS.

SFX: Gasping

YOU BAS-TARDS!

DO YOU STILL CONSIDER YOUR-SELVES... HUMAN?!

D-DAMN YOU! I WILL HAUNT YOU! I WILL HAUNT YOU!

SFX: Bam!

!

SFX: Head rolling

SFX: Fwapp

STOP WASTING TIME ON STUPID THINGS!

ICHI, YOU BASTARD.

USHI.

OH, IT'S JUST

YEAH!

B-BUT... BECAUSE OF THESE LYING BAS-TARDS I LOST MY FINGERS.

STOP FOOLING AROUND, YOU IDIOT!

I CAME TO CHECK ON YOU SINCE YOU WERE TAKING SO LONG.

THERE'S NO HARM IN DOING ALL THIS.

HE'S THE SAMURAI THAT TOR-MENTED YOU GUYS.

WHY ARE YOU TAKING IT OUT ON HIM? HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

HE DIDN'T DO THAT TO US.

UGH...

U...

HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

GANGING UP AND BULLYING SOMEONE? IS THAT WHAT A SAMURAI DOES?

IS HE WRONG?

BUT HE WAS SO CONDE-SCENDING WHEN HE TOLD US WE WEREN'T SAMURAIS!

SO WHAT?

YOU HAVE LOST YOUR MORALS. A MAN WITHOUT MORALS IS LOWER THAN A DOG!

USHI IS RIGHT, ICHI. WE SHOULDN'T BE DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

.....

AM I WRONG?

LET'S GO.

WHAT-EVER.

THAT'S RIGHT. WE SHOULDN'T BE DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

WHA...?

Y-YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T THINK THIS WAS ALRIGHT, EITHER. I WAS UNDER ICHI'S IN-FLUENCE...

HOLD ON! YOU GUYS...

ESPECIALLY SINCE WE KILL PEOPLE, WE MUST NOT FORGET OUR DIGNITY AS HUMANS.

YEAH...

WHEN WE GET BACK, WE SHOULD LIGHT AN INCENSE STICK FOR THE DECEASED SAMURAI.

SFX: Crowding around

AS ALWAYS, USHIGOROU IS BEING REA-SONABLE.

ARE YOU IN A POSITION TO BE BOASTING ABOUT YOUR VIRTUES?

USHI! WHICH ONE OF US IS LOWER THAN A DOG?

W-WHAT YOU ARE DOING WITH YOUR SISTER CHIYO.

I KNOW VERY WELL USHI

CUT IT OUT, ICHI.

H-HEY...

WHA...?

WHAT?

?

LISTEN USHI, THERE'S A LINE THAT PEOPLE CANNOT CROSS.

WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS SOMETHING A MAN SHOULDN'T DO!

SHUT THE FUCK UP, FAT ASS!

ONLY SCUM THAT'S LOWER THAN A DOG WOULD DO THAT!

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

SISTER?

OF ALL THINGS, YOU'RE BEDDING YOUR OWN SISTER!

DESPITE ANYONE SAYING IT OUT LOUD, EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE KNOWS IT.

IT DOESN'T MATTER AT THIS POINT.

CUT IT OUT ALREADY, ICHI!

HM?

SFX:
Ka-pow!

BRO USH!

SFX:
Smack
thud!

HEY, STOP IT!

HEY! STOP IT! CALM DOWN!

OWW...

PULL THEM APART!

COME AT ME, YOU COWARD!

BRING IT ON! I'LL KILL YOU INSTEAD!

I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU!

YOU FUCKING BASTARD!

WE'LL TAKE USHI THIS WAY.

YOU GUYS TAKE ICHI HOME THROUGH THE OTHER WAY.

O-OKAY.

BRO, CALM DOWN.

WE SHOULDN'T BE SCUF-FLING RIGHT NOW.

CLATTER

DON'T TOUCH ME!

LET ME GO!

BRO...

EVERY-ONE HAS A SECRET THEY CAN'T TALK ABOUT.

D-DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, USHI.

DON'T TALK ABOUT IT LIKE YOU HAVE SOME IDEA.

WHAT DO YOU GUYS EVEN KNOW ABOUT ME?

USHI...

SFX: Birds chirping

SFX: Clack!

YOU CAN DO IT, CHIYO-MATSU!

YOU AREN'T BEATING THE FATTY UNLESS YOU PUT SOME EFFORT IN THIS.

WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU NOT GOING TO ATTACK?

SFX: Wham, plink!

DAMN YONE-KICHI... HE FOUND HIMSELF A GOOD STYLE.

HE'S HAVING TROUBLE FIGHTING AN OPPONENT TALLER THAN HIM.

HII!

DORYAA!

SFX: Smack!

NO WONDER, CONSIDERING WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY...

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM AROUND TODAY.

SO, WHAT HAPPENED TO USHIGOROU?

ANYWAY LET'S GET BACK TO THE TRAINING.

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE IT'S MY FAULT!

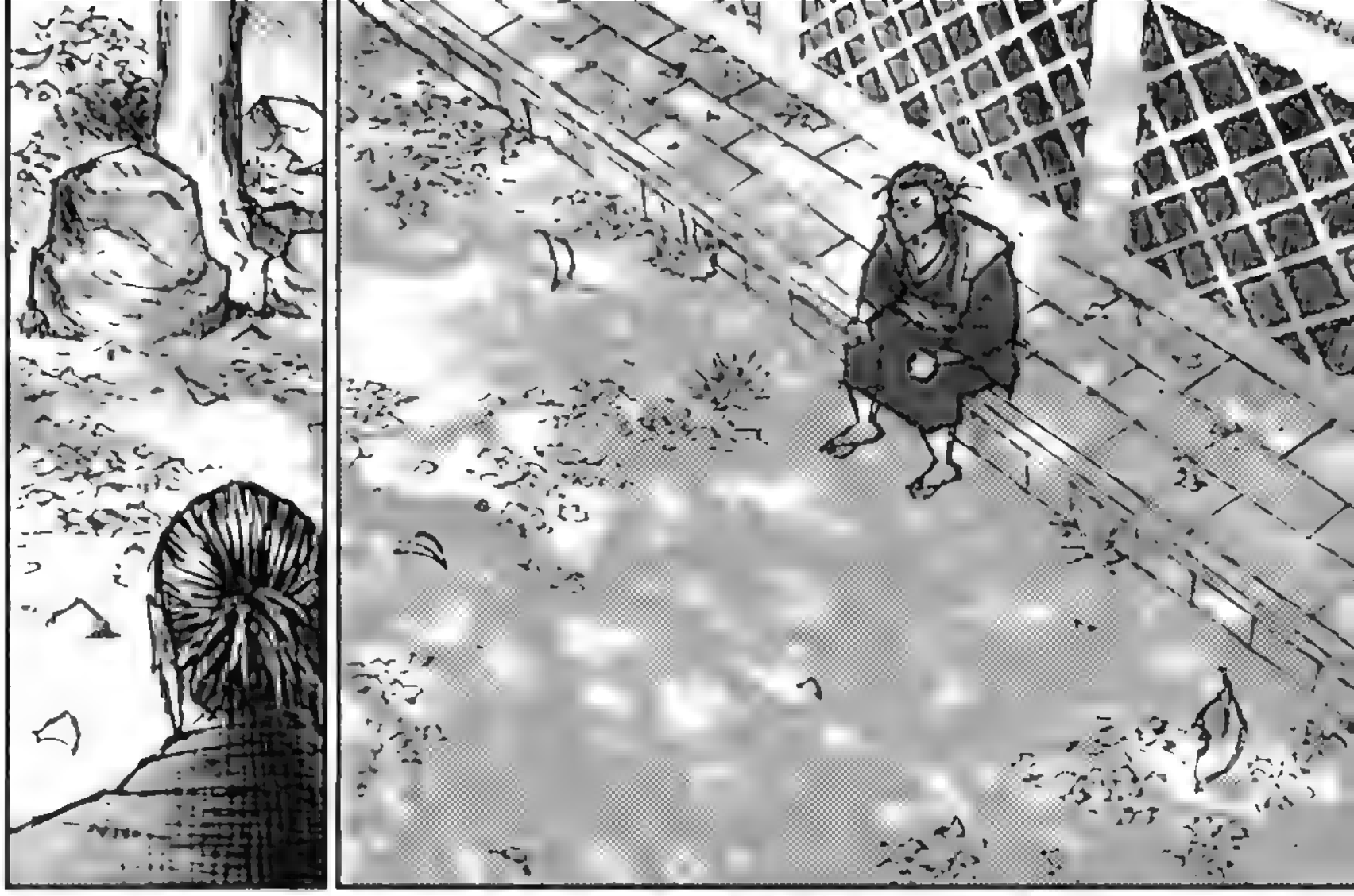
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH TELLING THE TRUTH?

I JUST STATED THE FACTS!

IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR SAYING THAT, ICHIZOU!

WHAT?!




APPEAR




NOT PLAYING WITH SWORDS?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, USHI-GOROU?

YEAH, NO SORTIE TODAY EITHER.

IT HAS BEEN THREE DAYS NOW.

SO, WE WON'T GO OUT TONIGHT EITHER, SHIMADA-SAMA?

AYE.

SFX: Chirp

YOU WON'T HAVE YOUR WAY WITH SATSUMA'S WARRIORS.

YES.

IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THOSE RO-NINS AND SATSUMA'S SAMURAIS?

BUT NOW, THERE ARE HARDLY ANY RONINS LEFT IN THE SHIBA RESI-DENCE.

AS YOU KNOW, THE ONES YOU ATTACK ARE RONINS FOR HIRE.

BUT, THAT SEEMS LIKE IT WON'T HAPPEN.

I WANTED TO WAIT FOR NEW RECRUITS,

IF WE GO AFTER THEM WITH OUR CURRENT NUMBERS, THEY'LL JUST KILL US INSTEAD.

IN THE MEANTIME, YOU HAVE TO FOCUS ON IMPROV-ING YOUR SWORD SKILLS.

FOR NOW WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE RIGHT TIME.

SO, WHEN DO WE SORTIE?

MAY I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

SHI-MADA-SAMA.

YES?

IT WON'T TAKE TOO LONG.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE MAN NAMED GYUUZOU? HE GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH ME AND YOU CUT HIM DOWN.

WHILE PICKING THE MEMBERS FOR THE SQUAD,

WHAT ABOUT HIM?

YES, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT.

SHIMADA-SAMA, I'M WONDERING HOW YOU COULD HAVE DONE THAT IN A BLINK OF AN EYE.

YOU COULDN'T HAVE ATTACKED HIM LIKE THAT IF YOU HAD TO OBSERVE HIS MOVEMENTS FIRST.

THEN YOU ATTACKED HIM DIAGONALLY FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF YOUR SHOULDER AND KILLED HIM.

AND THEN YOU CUT OFF HIS RIGHT ARM.

HE TRIED TO PUNCH YOU WITH HIS RIGHT FIST AFTER TURNING AROUND.

OH... THAT...

THAT'S THE ART OF *IAI*.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE ART OF DRAWING A SWORD.

IAI?

ART OF DRAWING A SWORD?

I'VE LEARNED IT ON MY OWN DURING COMBAT.

THAT BEING SAID, I DIDN'T LEARN THAT IN A DOJO.

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN.

.....

VERY WELL, USHIGOROU.

STAND OVER THERE.

AYE.

LIKE THIS?

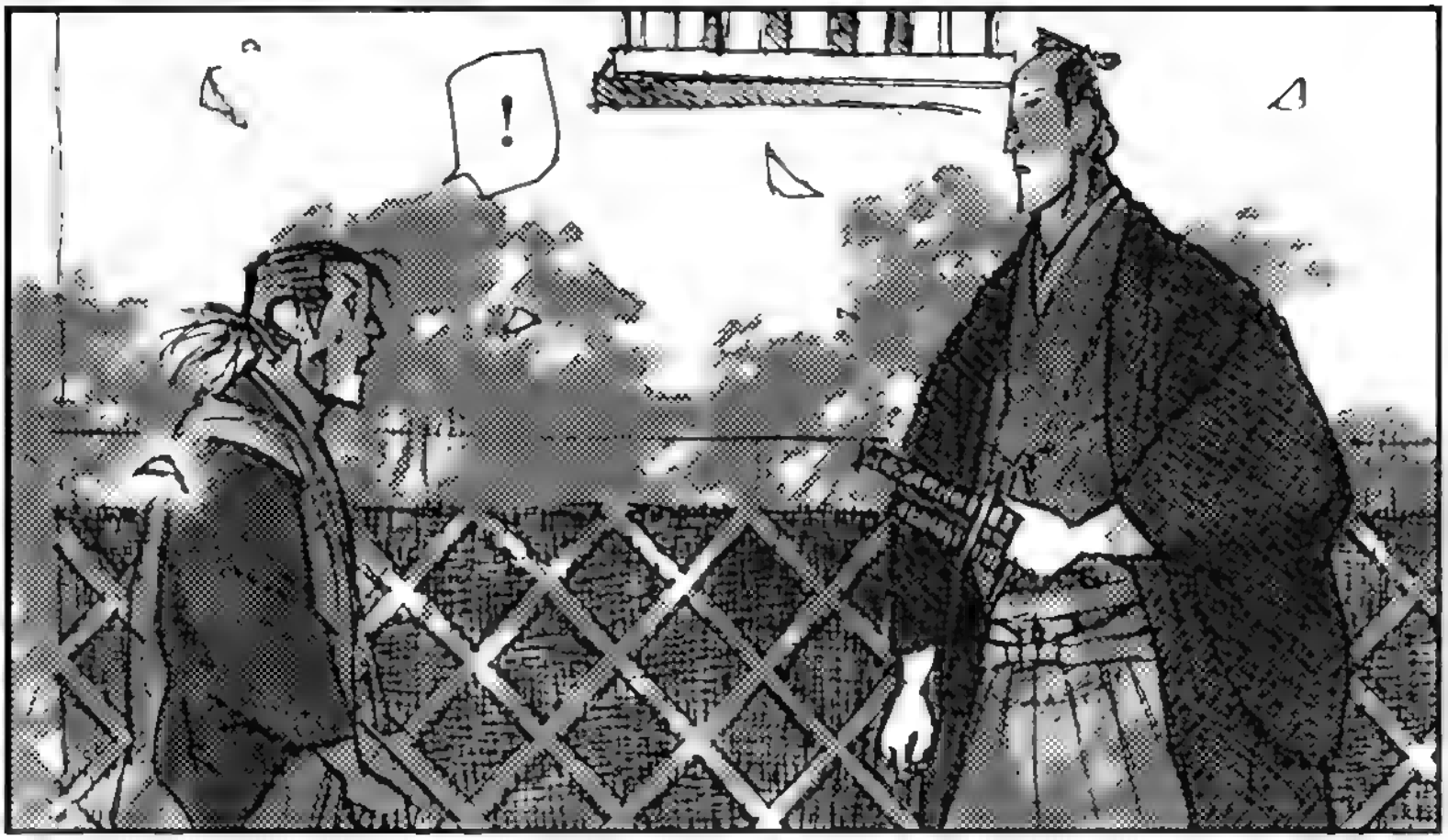
EH?

CLING

SHIMADA-SAMA?


SFX: Wh-whoosh!




!


YOU'RE DRENCHED IN A COLD SWEAT, USHIGOROU.
WHAT'S WRONG?



HOW DID I KILL YOU?

AFTER DRAWING YOUR SWORD, YOU CUT ME FROM THE RIGHT UP TO MY HEAD IN ONE STROKE.

I WAS JUST KILLED BY YOU, SHIMADA-SAMA.

I JUST DIRECTED MY KILLING BLOOD LUST TOWARDS YOU.

BLOOD LUST?

CORRECT.

CH'ING

YOU HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO DEFEND AGAINST IT AND LEARN HOW TO COUNTER-ATTACK.

OR RATHER, YOU HAVE TO FORESTALL WHAT'S GOING TO COME AND ATTACK BEFORE YOUR ENEMY DOES.

IT'S EASY ONCE YOU KNOW HOW THE ENEMY WILL ATTACK YOU.

WHAT DO I DO, IF I FAIL TO ASSESS THE SITUATION?

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.

THAT'S BASICALLY HOW IAI WORKS.

THE FIGHT BETWEEN EXPERIENCED WARRIORS BOILS DOWN TO WHO CAN READ HIS OPPONENT BETTER.

YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO PREDICT,

BUT TO READ THE ENEMY'S INTENTION TO KILL YOU.

THAT BEING SAID, I CAN'T EVEN THINK OF A WAY TO TRAIN FOR THAT.

THOSE WHO AREN'T NATURALLY WELL BUILT WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT REGARDLESS HOW HARD THEY TRAIN.

YEAH.

YOU ARE MUSCULAR.

KILL AS MANY PEOPLE AS YOU CAN.

YOU HAVE TO CUT DOWN A LOT OF PEOPLE.

IN FACT, YOU'LL SLEEP AS IF YOU WERE KILLED INSTEAD.

AT SOME POINT, AFTER KILLING SOMEONE, YOU'LL GO TO BED AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.

YOU EVEN FORGET ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU'VE KILLED.

AFTER A WHILE, YOU WON'T REMEMBER HOW MANY YOU'VE KILLED.

HA HA HAHA!

YOUR BODY WILL REMEMBER IT ALL ON ITS OWN BY THEN.

OF COURSE, IF YOU SURVIVE UNTIL THEN.

WELL THEN.

チ チ.

チ

USHI-GOROU.

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T DIE UNTIL THEN,

CHAPTER 11 COMB AND A HAND



PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT IT YOURSELF.

OPEN

THE ITEM YOU ORDERED HAS BEEN DELIVERED.

OH MY, IT'S USHIGOROU-SAMA.

THE COMB'S FLORAL PATTERN HAS AN EXCLUSIVE *RADEN* INLAY.

IT'S VERY POPULAR IN KYOTO AND NEARBY CITIES. AND NOW IT'S A RARE ITEM IN EDO AS WELL.

TL/N. Raden is a lacquerware technique.

ALL RIGHT.

SCRAPE

WILL YOU BE ABLE TO PAY...

THAT'S WHY IT'S A BIT EX-PENSIVE...

AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S A VERY EXTRAV-AGANT PRODUCT.

S-SHOULD I WRAP IT UP?

NO NEED.

I'M BUYING IT, THEN.

OH, BUT OF COURSE.

!

IS THIS ENOUGH?

SFX: Flip

IS THAT A PRESENT FOR THE PERSON YOU CHERISH?

WHAT?

I'M ABSO-LUTELY SURE OF IT.

POSSESSING SUCH A RARE GEM WILL MAKE A FINE SAMURAI LIKE YOURSELF EVEN MORE RESPECT-ABLE.

AH, I'M SO JEALOUS.

I'M SURE IT WILL ALL GO THE WAY YOU WANT.

SHIT!

WHAT THE HELL WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?!

HIII!

I WONDER IF THEY TAKE THIS ALL FOR GRANTED BECAUSE THE ROBBERIES AND ASSAULTS HAPPEN AT NIGHT?

Kyaha haha

IT'S LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TOWN AT NIGHT.

THIS PLACE IS SO LIVELY DURING DAYTIME.

SFX: Hrmm

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?

USHI-GOROU ...

U...

ICHI-ZOU!

SFX: Cover

SO I'M STROLLING AROUND TO KILL SOME TIME.

THE GIRLS WEREN'T READY YET...

W-WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?

HID-ING?

I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

HA...

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING THE WAY I'M GOING!

WHA?!

WHY THE HELL ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?!

WHERE ELSE WOULD I GO?!

GO SOME-WHERE ELSE, ICHIZOU.

WHA...

I'M ALSO HEADED TO IMURAYA.

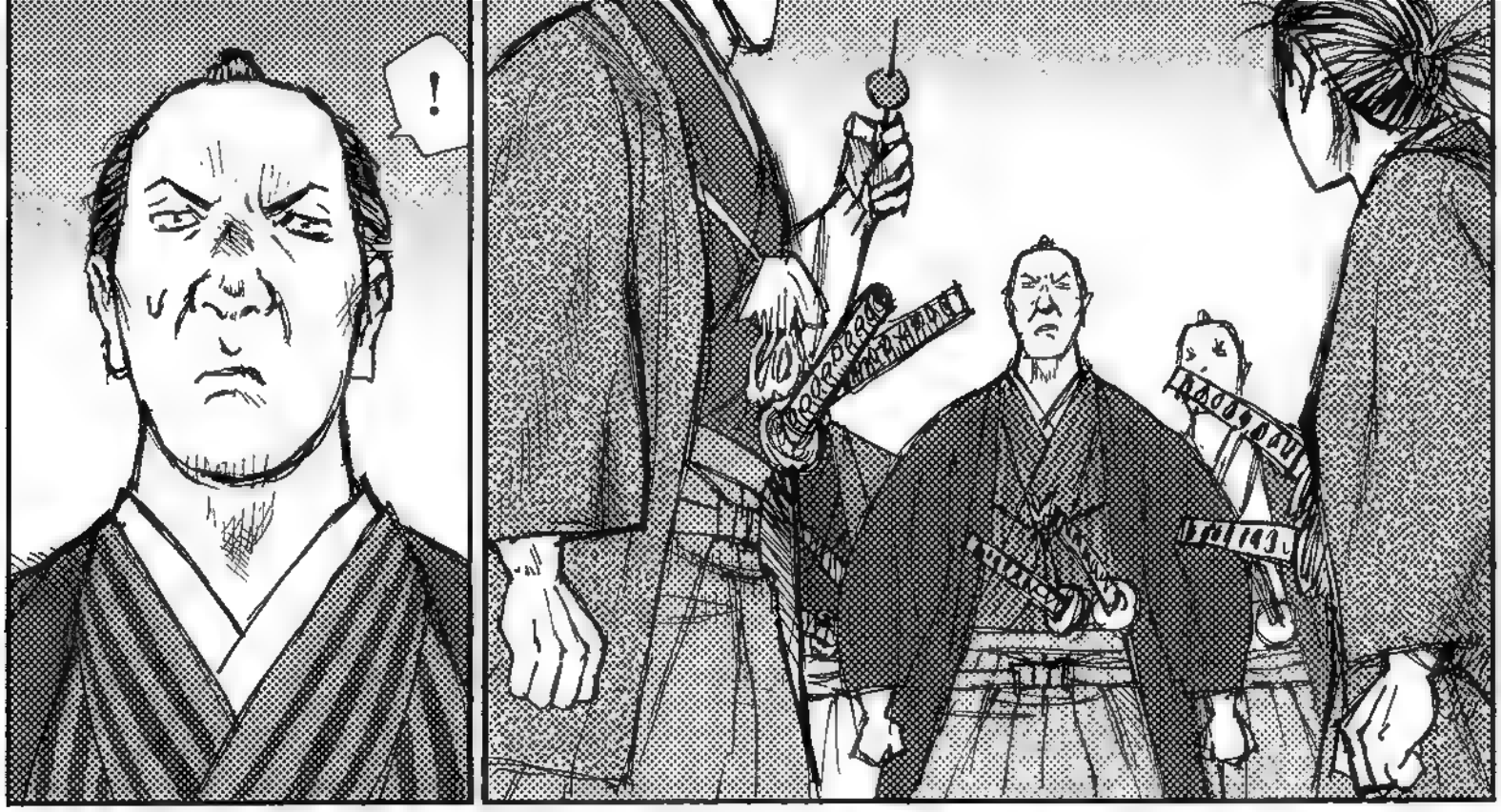
I'M HEADED TO IMU-RAYA.

SFX: Turn

MOVE YOUR ASS OUT OF THE WAY.

HEY, YOU'RE STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET.

EH?







H-
HEY...

I NEED TO HURRY TO A TEA HOUSE!

WHEN I SAW SOMEONE EATING DANGO, MY HUMBLE SELF GOT HUNGRY AS WELL.

SFX: Running

HE MUST BE DRUNK.

Dango!

WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?

IF YOU PICK ON THESE GUYS,

YOU WILL FORFEIT YOUR LIFE.

EH...

THOSE WERE THE EYES OF MEN WHO HAVE KILLED SEVERAL PEOPLE.

YOU FOOL! HAVE YOU SEEN THEIR EYES?

THERE WERE JUST THE TWO OF THEM.

HEY, WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?

YES, PEASANT CUSTOM-ERS.

PEAS-ANTS?

Yanagi

柳

WHAT ABOUT THEM, IMUDA-SAMA?

NO... WE DON'T HAVE SUCH CUSTOMERS HERE AT YANAGI.

DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THEM?

THEY'RE WEALTHY DESPITE BEING PEAS-ANTS.

OKAY...

LET ME KNOW IF SOMEONE LIKE THAT WALKS IN. I'LL PAY YOU EVEN MORE.

SFX: Flip, ching

I'LL LET YOU KNOW RIGHT AWAY, IMUDA-SAMA.

OH, BUT OF COURSE.

I CAN'T THINK OF SUCH CUS-TOMERS...

LET ME THINK... WEALTHY PEAS-ANTS...

SHUT UP, YOU IDIOT. I'LL DAMN KILL YOU.

HEY, DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING?

I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START...

THERE ARE SEVERAL BROTHELS AROUND HERE.

SFX: Slam!

IMUDA-
DONO.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?

OH,
KAIEDA-
DONO.

NOTHING.
I WAS JUST
WANDERING
AROUND

NO NEED
TO LIE
TO US,
IMUDA-
DONO.

YOUR ACTIONS VIOLATE THE CHAIN OF COM-MAND.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO DO YOUR OWN THING.

IT'S NOT YOUR JOB TO LOOK FOR THOSE KILLERS!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?

I FORGOT THAT I HAD STUPID COM-RADES THAT DESPITE THEIR HARD EFFORTS, DON'T GET RESULTS.

OH, I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT THAT.

THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS GOING AROUND THAT YOU'VE BEEN ASKING ABOUT THEM AT SO MANY BROTHELS!

WHAT'S THAT?

YOU... WATCH YOUR TONGUE! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACCOM-PLISH?!

YOU'RE JUST A GREENHORN WHO'S AFRAID OF TARNISHING YOUR HONOR.

SO WHAT?

PULLING OUT OUR SWORDS IS JUST WHAT YOU WANT.

WE AREN'T FALLING FOR THAT.

STOP IT, YOU FOOL!

WHA...

SFX: Clack!

I HIGHLY REGARD YOUR COURAGE AND SKILL AS A SWORDSMAN...

I JUST CAME TO GIVE YOU A WARNING.

OH?

IF YOU STAY ON THIS PATH, YOU'LL BE ALL ALONE.

HOWEVER, YOUR SELFISH PERSONALITY THAT REJECTS ANYONE ELSE AND DOING ONLY WHAT YOU WANT TO DO HAS MADE YOU FORGET WHAT LIES AHEAD.

I SEE. I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.

LET'S GO.

I WANT TO AVOID A SECOND TERADAYA REBEL-LION...

TL/N: The Teradaya Incident was an internal conflict within Satsuma where pro-imperial loyalists attempted an insurgency in Kyoto against the will of the Satsuma Daimyo. The incident ended with the death of many insurgents and the surrender of the remaining rebels.

YOU PAY SO MUCH MONEY FOR ME, YET YOU DIDN'T EVEN SLEEP WITH ME ONCE.

YOU'RE A STRANGE PERSON, USHIGOROU-SAN.

SFX: Gulp

YES, BUT...

SHUT UP. IT'S MY BUSINESS WHAT I DO WITH MY MONEY.

WHAT?

!

BEATS ME!

B...

IF YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING, I'LL GET FLAK FROM THE BOSS.

!

DON'T TELL ME YOU BOUGHT IT FOR ME?

HEY, IS THAT A COMB?

I WAS JUST KIDDING. ♡

HAHAHA.

BULL'S EYE, HUH?

YOU'RE GIVING THAT TO CHIYO-SAN, RIGHT?

THIS ISN'T FOR YOU.

DON'T TOUCH IT!

DOESN'T MATTER. POUR ME MORE SAKE.

DOES SHE LOVE YOU, TOO? OR NOT?

WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SHE?

I RESEM-BLE HER, DON'T I?

HERE.

W-WHA...

TOUCH

WHAT ARE YOU...

I LOOK LIKE CHIYO-SAN, RIGHT?

EH?

SQUISH

THEN WHY DON'T YOU...

THINK OF ME AS CHIYO-SAN AND MAKE LOVE TO ME?

USHI-GOROU-SAN.

I LOVE YOU,

SFX: Kiss, lick

SFX: Shove, Wham!

STOP IT!

KYAAH!

THINK OF YOU AS CHIYO?

USHI-GOROU-SAN?

U...

YOU AREN'T CHIYO!

FUCK YOU!

YOU'RE JUST A WHORE! DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF!

YOU'RE A PROSTITUTE THAT SPREADS HER LEGS FOR ANYONE WHO PAYS.

I'M NOT DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO!

THAT'S AWFUL, USHI-GOROU-SAN!

I WANT TO GO HOME

AND SEE MOTHER AND FATHER.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

USHI-GOROU-SAN,

YOU'RE PUTTING ME IN AN EVEN WORSE MOOD.

ENOUGH!

KEEP SPREADING YOUR LEGS OPEN UNTIL YOU DIE HERE!

I'M NEVER COMING BACK AGAIN!

WAA AAAH!

I DID IT AGAIN...

SHIT!

.....

AAA AAA AAA AH!

SFX: Thump, thump, thump

AH HH!

AH!

AHN!

IT'S TIME. GET READY!

THIS IS AMAZING, UMEKICHI-SAN! SHE'S DAMN FINE...

SFX: Munch, munch

. . . .

モグ モグ

WHY ARE YOU SITTING THERE, BROTHER? WE SHOULD GATHER OUTSIDE.

PROMISE ME THAT YOU'LL COME BACK TOMORROW.

OF COURSE! JUST WAIT FOR ME LIKE A GOOD GIRL, TAMA.

EVERYONE IS HERE. ALRIGHT, LET'S GO.

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR..

OH, THERE YOU ARE USHI-GOROU

THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME TILL CURFEW.

DON'T "I SEE."

I SEE

IT'S SAFER THAT WAY.

WE AREN'T KIDS. WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO ALL TOGETHER, HOLDING HANDS?

HAHAHA. PRETTY HONEST, AREN'T WE?

SHUT UP! DOING IT WITH TAMA IS MY LIFE'S PURPOSE!

HOW MUCH STAMINA DOES YOUR DICK HAVE? HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN FUCKING TODAY?

SFX: Staring

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

OH MY, IT'S IMUDA-SAMA.

SFX: Thud

I'M NOT HERE TO HAVE FUN TONIGHT.

A GROUP JUST LEFT THIS PLACE. THE WOMEN ARE ALL FREE NOW.

OH?

WHAT'S THE REASON FOR YOUR VISIT?

DO YOU KNOW ANY?

YES. WEALTHY PEAS-ANTS.

PEAS-ANTS?

TSK!

WELL... I DON'T QUITE KNOW...

YES, OF COURSE. THEN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE HER, IMUDA-SAMA?

OH, RIGHT... IS SONO DOING WELL TONIGHT?

.....

I'LL HANG AROUND A BIT, THEN.

WHAT ABOUT THEM?

SFX: Splash

SFX: Sulking

SFX: Drip, drip

DO YOU HATE POURING SAKE FOR ME THAT MUCH?

WHAT IS IT, SONO?

THERE'S THIS SAMURAI THAT BOUGHT ME TODAY...

SOMETHING IRRITATING? WHAT HAPPENED?

SOMETHING REALLY IRRITATING HAPPENED TODAY.

THAT'S NOT IT.

SO THAT'S WHY YOUR EYES ARE SWOLLEN.

I SEE.

I'VE BEEN CRYING THE WHOLE TIME!

HE CALLED ME A WHORE!

PLEASE DON'T TEASE ME NOW, IMUDA-SAMA. I'M REALLY PISSED!

YOUR FACE AFTER WHINING ISN'T THAT BAD EITHER, SONO.

EVEN THOUGH THEY CARRY SWORDS, THEY BEHAVE LIKE PEASANTS!

IT'S NOT JUST HIM. THE GROUP HE COMES TOGETHER WITH ARE ALL LIKE HIM.

HE MIGHT BE WEALTHY AND WEARING A FINE HAORI, BUT IT REALLY DOESN'T FIT HIM.

HE SAYS THAT HE'S A SAMURAI, BUT HE ABSOLUTELY DOESN'T SPEAK LIKE ONE.

I CAN TELL IT BY LOOKING AT THEIR HANDS. THOSE ARE THE HANDS OF SOMEONE THAT WORKED IN THE FIELDS.

WITHOUT A DOUBT, THEY'RE THE HANDS OF A PEASANT.

HEY, SONO.

SFX: Gulp

WHAT'S THE NAME

OF THAT PEASANT SAMURAI?

Banner: One Strike One Kill
Helmet: Ushi

CHAPTER 12 MEETING



SFX: Chomp

SFX: Munch munch

'SUP. WE'RE HERE AGAIN, OLD MAN.

THEN I'LL CALL DOWN THE GIRLS

HERE, TAKE MY SWORD

OH MY, AS ALWAYS, YOU'RE QUITE EARLY

FIRST, GIVE US SAKE AND SOMETHING TO EAT

SHE ALREADY HAS AN APPOINT-MENT FOR TODAY.

WELL...

EH?

W-WHERE IS S-SONO?

HEY OLD MAN,

ANYWAY, YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME SAKE AND FOOD WHILE YOU WAIT FOR HER.

TSK...

I'LL CALL HER AS SOON AS SHE'S FREE...

ALL RIGHT...

CLACK

AND THIS IS ON THE HOUSE.

FOUR PORTIONS OF GRILLED RICE CAKE

ACCORDING TO THE BOSS OF IMURAYA, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO LOOK LIKE SAMURAIS, BUT ACT LIKE PEASANTS..

WELCOME IN!

THEY SEEM TO BE VERY ARROGANT AND SPEND MONEY WILDLY.

THERE'S NO MISTAKE. THEY'RE THE PEASANT GUERRILLAS.

FURTHERMORE, THEY ONLY COME TO THE STORE THE DAY AFTER A SNEAK ATTACK HAPPENS.

HMM.

WHEN THE PEASANT GUERRILLAS VISIT THE STORE, HE'LL NOTIFY US.

I TOLD THE SHOP OWNER TO KEEP HIS EYES OPEN.

THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ACTIVE LATELY. I DOUBT THEY'LL DO ANYTHING TODAY EITHER.

WE HAVE TO TEACH THOSE PEASANTS A LESSON!

MUNCH

KAIEDA-DONO, WHEN THEY VISIT THE STORE, LET'S MASSACRE THEM ALL!

HE DIDN'T HEED US AND WENT OUT BY HIMSELF TO DO HIS OWN INVESTIGATING.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE'S IMUDA?

I-I SEE.

FIRST WE HAVE TO LOCATE THEIR HEADQUARTERS. WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHO'S MANIPULATING THOSE PEASANTS.

BUT...

WE MUSTN'T RUSH THIS. LET THEM GO BACK AND WE'LL TAIL THEM.

SIR!

I SEE.

I BRIBED THE BOSS OF IMURAYA,

SO HE WON'T TELL IMUDA ANYTHING.

ARE YOU SURE?

YEAH. A GROUP MATCHING THAT DESCRIPTION CAME TO IMURAYA A WHILE AGO.

THEY'VE COME!

WE'RE GOING TO GET THEM!

ALRIGHT!

SFX: Swords clanging

GUHHH!

UHH!

OHH!

NO!

SFX: Shaking bottles falling

GUH...

P-PLEASE... I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE.

YOU'RE KILLING ME... IMUDA-SAMA...

SFX: Trembling

SFX: Thump, thump.

IIII IIII IIII!

SFX: Burning

UGAAAAH!

SFX: Shake, shake

HE... THAT GUY...

AND THAT GUY...

HIIN!

HII!

M- MOANING LIKE THAT... YOU LITTLE BITCH!

WHAT'S GOING ON, SONO...?

SFX: Smack, smack, smack

SFX: Glare

HII!

SFX: Smack, wham!

YOU GOTTA PUT ON A GOOD SHOW.

NOT YET, SONO. YOU'VE GOTTA ENDURE THIS.

SFX: Grab

I DON'T WANT THIS ANYMORE!

うご

I WANT TO GO HOME!

SFX: Uuuhhh

SFX: Hiiiinnn...

HE... WAS GLARING AT ME...

I CAN'T TAKE SUCH A FAT COCK IN ME!

PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

SFX: Gulp, whine

SO THAT'S IMU-RAYA?

ALRIGHT, I WON'T LET THEM GET AWAY, SIR!

TAIL THOSE TWO AS WELL.

EIGHT MEN WENT INTO THE STORE, BUT TWO LEFT FAIRLY QUICKLY.

BE PREPARED JUST IN CASE SOMETHING GOES WRONG.

THERE MIGHT BE THE CHANCE THAT WE CAN'T TAIL THEM, SO WE'LL HAVE TO APPRE-HEND THEM BY FORCE.

THE REST WILL SPREAD OUT AND WATCH THE EN-TRANCES.

UNDER-STOOD.

OKADA-KUN, TAKE A FEW MEN WITH YOU AND GO AFTER THOSE TWO.

THEY WERE HERE A MOMENT AGO. WHERE DID THEY GO?

HUH? WHERE DID WASABUROU AND CHIYO-MATSU GO?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ICHIZOU?

THEY'LL FILL THE BOAT WITH SHIT AND TRANSPORT IT THROUGH THE RIVER.

WANDERING AROUND WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF A SUPERIOR OFFICER IS AGAINST THE RULES, ISN'T IT?

BOATS?

THEY WENT TO CHECK OUT SOME BOATS.

SFX: Cuddle

EH?

AREN'T YOU GOING TO SEE SONO?

BRO, WHAT'S WRONG?

HM?

IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROB-LEM IF THEY REMAIN IN THE CITY AND GET BACK IN TIME.

H-HEY

THAT FUCKING BITCH

GET SOME FRESH AIR BEFORE YOU POLLUTE THE ATMOSPHERE IN HERE.

SONO IS... ENTER-TAINING ANOTHER CUS-TOMER

EH?

SONO IS A PROSTITUTE. OF COURSE SHE'S GOING TO SLEEP WITH ANOTH-ER MAN.

IS BRO USHI GONNA BE ALRIGHT?

AND YOU WANT EIGHT RYO FOR THIS RUNDOWN BOAT?

WHAT? THIS ISN'T NEW?

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

THAT'S WHY WE'LL BUY TWO OF THEM, SO THE SHOPKEEPER WON'T SCREW US OVER.

BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY WE SHOULD GET A BIGGER BOAT, WASA-BUROU?

WHATEVER. I SUPPOSE ONE BOAT'S LOAD IS ABOUT THE PROFIT YOU GET FROM ONE HEC-TARE.

WOW, WASABUROU. THAT WAY WE CAN DO IT EASILY.

ON ONE BOAT YOU CAN FIT 16 UNITS, WHILE ON TWO BOATS YOU CAN FIT 32 UNITS.

WANNA TRY OUT THE BOAT, CHIYO-MATSU?

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE THE YOUNGEST CHILD, YOU CAN GET YOURSELF A WIFE AND START A FAMILY.

EH?!

I'VE TALKED WITH A SAMURAI RESIDENCE IN KANDA. THEIR SHIT WILL BE VERY PROF-ITABLE TO SELL.

T-THAT MUCH?

WITH THIS, WE CAN GO FROM EDO TO OUR VILLAGE IN ONE DAY AND RETURN. IN TEN DAYS WE CAN MAKE 15 RYO.

OH, I SEE!

A BRIDE, HUH?

I'M AL-READY FEELING PRETTY SHY.

R-REALLY?

I KNOW SOMEONE WHO'S REALLY PRETTY.

THEN I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE DAUGHTER OF AN ACQUAIN-TANCE.

YEAH.

IT'S THEM, RIGHT?

SFX:
Gulping

SFX:
Ching

ARE YOU LISTENING?

.....

GO BUY A SILK GARMENT WITH THAT.

HERE'S SOME ALLOW-ANCE.

SONO!

HE APPEARS TO BE ALONE. MAYBE HE'S HERE TO HAVE FUN?

HOW-EVER...

I'VE SEEN HIM HERE BEFORE. HE WAS WITH SATSUMA... I WONDER IF THERE'LL BE A PROBLEM.

I'VE SEEN THAT BEFORE SOME-WHERE.

WHAT WAS THAT LOOK ON HIS FACE...?

THOSE EYES...

NO... THEY ALWAYS GO BACK TOGETHER... MAYBE HE'S JUST GUARDING?

IS THAT MIDGET PLANNING TO GO BACK ALONE?

HE'S ONE OF THE GUERRILLA PEASANTS.

YEAH.

THAT HAORI...

HM?

S-SIR! SOMEONE CAME OUT.

YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU KNOW THESE STREETS INSIDE AND OUT. I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.

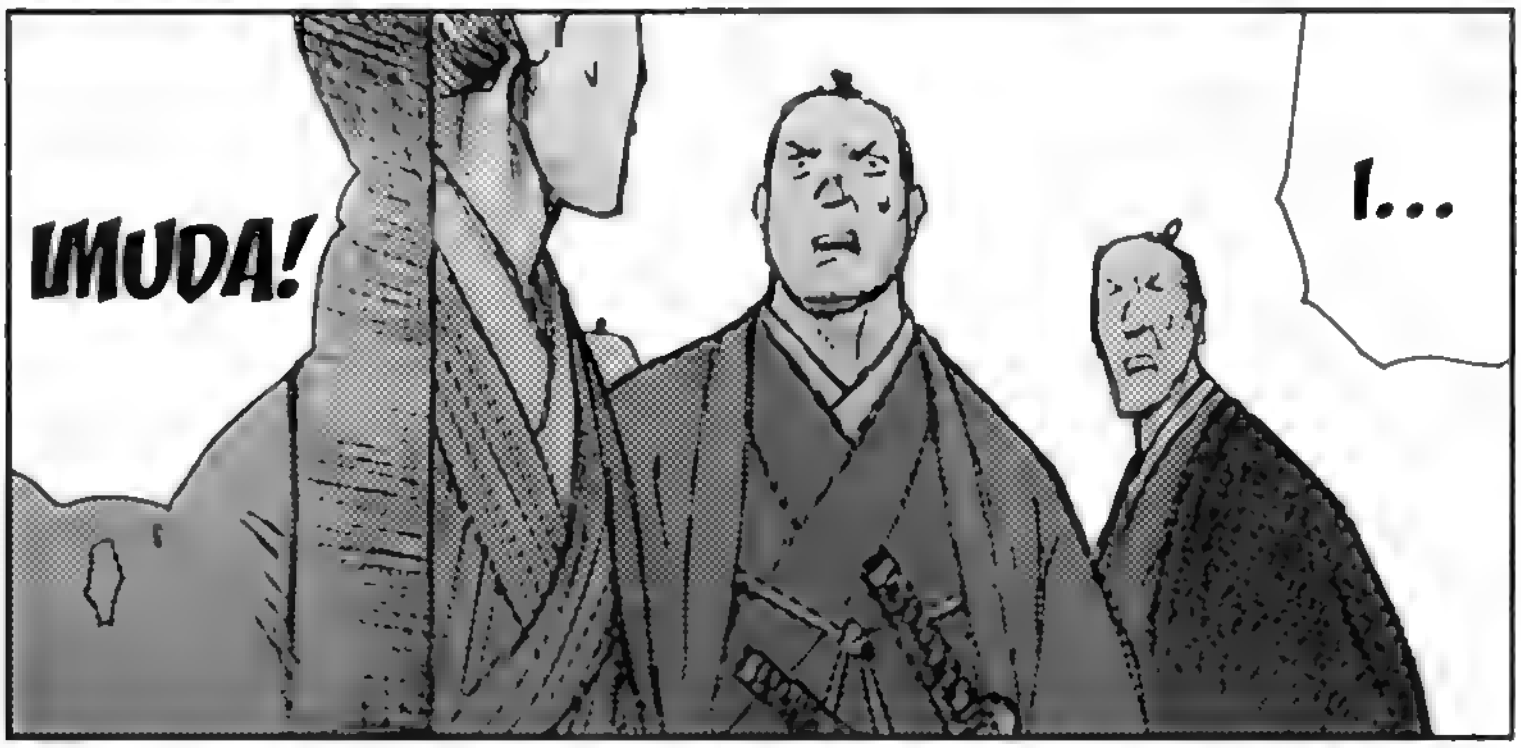
WE'LL STAND OUT WITH THIS MANY PEOPLE. KAIEDA-DONO, PLEASE LEAVE THE SURVEIL-LANCE TO ME.

SFX: Step

DOG

SFX:
Thud




IMUDA!
I...

!

WHA...

SFX
Sweating

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT IMUDA WAS IN THERE?!

YOU BASTARD!

UH!

SFX: Wham!

SFX: Glare

HE DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT THE SAMURAI THAT JUST CAME OUT.

I... I'VE ONLY HEARD ABOUT THE PEASANT SAMU-RAIS...

LET THE RONIN OUT THERE KNOW THAT AS WELL.

UNDER-STOOD.

TELL OUR COMRADES TO BE READY TO STORM IN AT ANY MOMENT.

WAIT. LET'S SEE HOW THIS PANS OUT.

WHAT DO WE DO, KAIEDA-DONO?

DAMN YOU, IMUDA!

SFX: Flinch

IF YOU WANT TO LIVE.

YOU BETTER NOT MAKE ANY FUNNY MOVES

I'VE HEARD YOUR NAME FROM SONO.

YOU'RE USHI-GOROU, AREN'T YOU?

YOU SHOULDN'T BE GETTING ANGRY AT SONO.

FUCK! THAT BITCH!

.....

AM I WRONG?

YOU'VE BROUGHT THIS ALL UPON YOUR-SELF.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT SONO?

I'LL ASK YOU...

WHICH MEANS, THAT YOU ACTUALLY FEEL THE OPPOSITE.

YOU HAVE LASHED OUT AT SONO...

TRYING TO DO?

WHAT IS HE...

W-Woah...

YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH HER!

I KNEW IT...

SINCE WHEN? SINCE YOUR EYES MET?

YOU... OUT OF ALL WOMEN, YOU'VE FALLEN FOR A PROSTITUTE.

ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOUR EYES DON'T EVEN LOOK AT OTHER WOMEN ANYMORE?

THIS IS A TRAP.

I MUSTN'T GET TEMPTED...

MM-HM... FIGURES...

WHAT IS IMUDA TALKING ABOUT WITH THAT PEASANT GUERRIL-LA?

SOME-THING BEAUTI-FUL.

LOVE IS

チ

チ…

THAT'S WHY YOU WOULD UNDER-STAND...

…

SFX: Eyes turning red

HOW GRAVE IS THE SADNESS OF LOSING SOMEONE YOU ADORE!

I CAN CLEARLY SEE HIS BLOOD LUST!

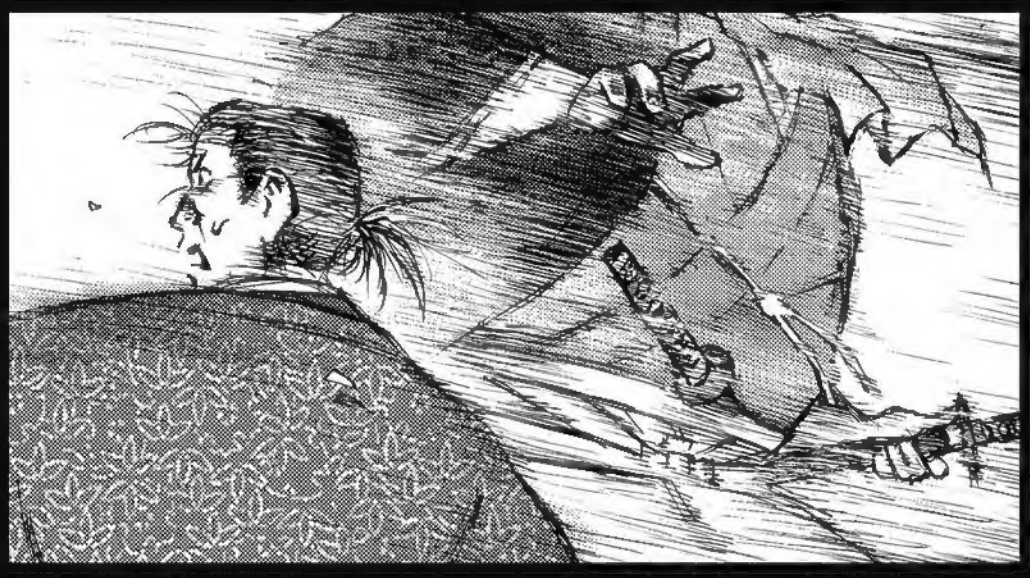
IT'S BLOOD LUST!

予測するのではない……
敵の殺意から
知るのだ

しかし……ンなこと
オラに出来るだか……

月刊コミック乱（毎月27日発売）
絶・賛・連・載・中!!

やるしかねえ



勝ち目など皆無……侍の権化のような男と対峙することになった丑五郎に起死回生の一手はあるのか!?
そして追われる身となった一撃必殺隊に新たな犠牲者が……単行本『いちげき』第③巻は来春発売予定!!

いちげき 2

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